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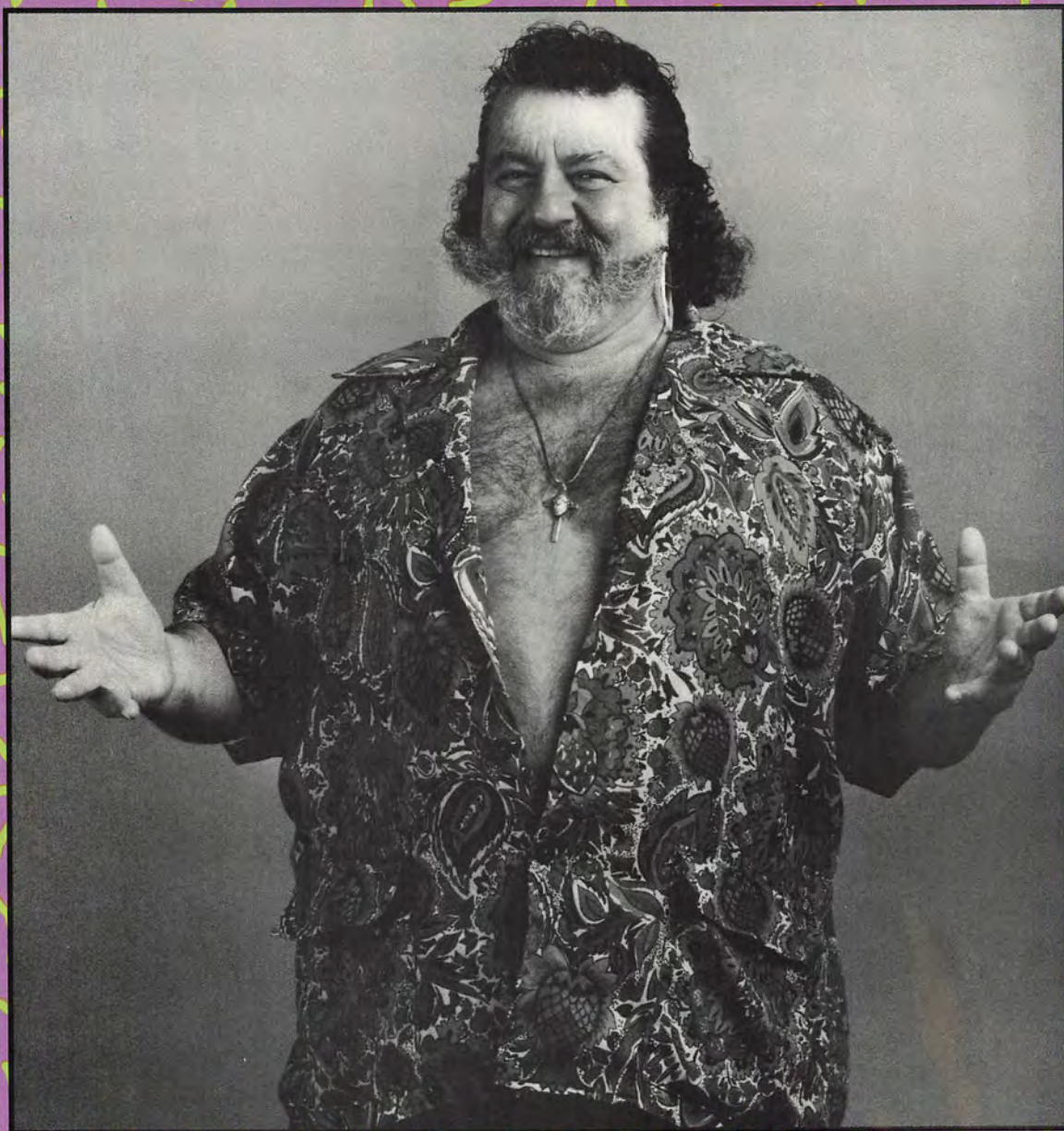
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INSIDE

# Wrestling

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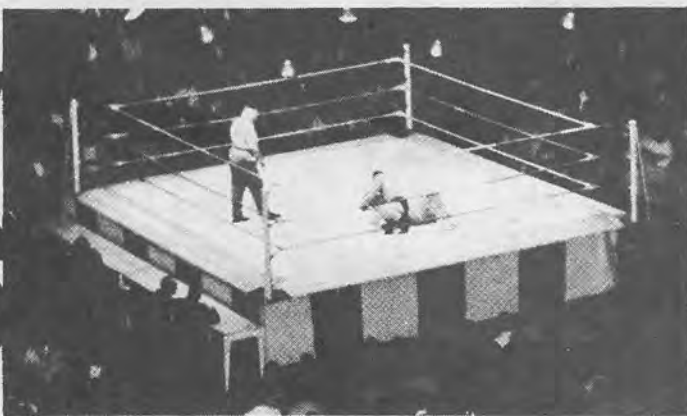
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Cover photos:  
Hogan, Savage by David Fitzgerald  
Luger by Bill Apter

INSIDE WRESTLING (ISSN: 1047-9562) is published monthly by G.C. London Publishing Assoc. Inc., Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. Second-class postage paid at Rockville Centre, NY, 11571 and additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send change of address notices to "Inside Wrestling," Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. Single copy price \$1.95 (\$2.75 in Canada, £1.75 in U.K.). Not responsible for the loss or nonreturn of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: Jim Messing, J.E. Publishers' Representative, 11150 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA, 90064, (1-800) 678-9321. U.S. & Canadian distribution by Kable News Company, 11 West 42nd St, New York, NY, 10036; International distribution (excluding U.K.) by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY, 10010; U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England. Printed in U.S.A.

Next issue on sale October 15

# SINCERELY YOURS



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## MISSY MISLEADS

After I read the "Hotseat" with Missy Hyatt ("I'm More Of A Man Than Paul E. Will Ever Be!" September 1991), I really had to wonder in which fantasy world this woman is living. She claims that beating Paul E. Dangerously is no problem, but look at the kind of wins she has achieved.

In their original arm-wrestling encounter at Clash of the Champions XIV last January, she only won by flashing her ample chest at Paul E. In more recent arm-wrestling encounters, she has won by spraying Paul in the

face with hairspray.

Then, after the "Hotseat" interview, Missy and Paul E. squared off in tag team bouts, with Missy usually scoring the pin only after her partner had knocked Dangerously out.

Missy, don't try to fool the people into thinking you're better than Paul E., because you definitely aren't.

FRED JACOBSON  
St. Louis

## HORSEMEN, MY FOOT

Are you really serious about your "Warning: The Diamond Exchange Is

The Second Coming Of The Four Horsemen" (September 1991)? C'mon, no one or no team could ever even approach the greatness of Ric Flair and company. They were by far the greatest group of wrestlers ever assembled.

I have a lot of respect for "Diamond" Dallas Page and for what he has done with The Freebirds and Diamond Studd. But the Horsemen were in a league by themselves. With Flair as World champion, and Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson as tag team titlists, they were just about untouchable.

I deeply regret that the Horsemen are probably gone for good. And no group will ever take their place.

ROBERT LEEDE  
Charlotte, NC



"Diamond" Dallas Page and The Freebirds make a great unit, but they'll never match the greatness of The Four Horsemen, says reader Robert Leede.

## HULK WILL WIN

It seems that everyone these days is jumping on the Sid Justice bandwagon. In "Sid's In The WWF . . . And Hogan's In The Biggest Trouble Of His Life!" (September 1991), you jump on the same bandwagon. But I'm content to let it roll by, because I think the threat Sid poses to Hulk is vastly overstated.

Hogan has turned back countless challenges from big men over the years, and from what I've seen of Justice in his WCW days, nothing leads me to believe that Hogan wouldn't meet and defeat his threat. Sid is a big, tough guy, but the "Hulkster" has made a career out of deposing of such men.



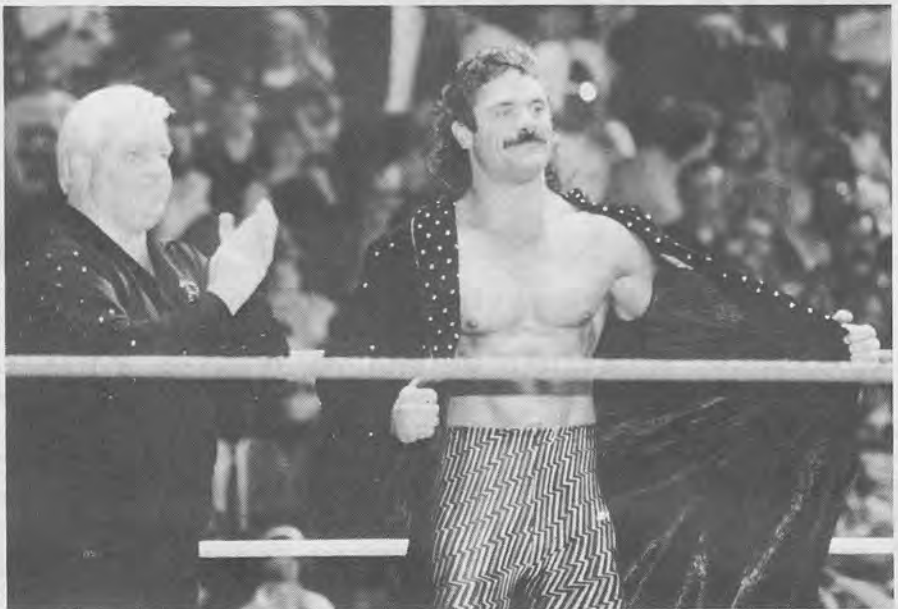


I have no doubt that Sid will be a success in the WWF, but I'm not ready to hand him the World crown. That rests securely on Hogan's head.

HANNAH SANDERS  
Parsippany, NJ

### **RUDENESS**

Kudos to "Ravishing" Rick Rude for his decision not to have a manager anymore ("Rick Doesn't Mean To Be Rude, But . . . 'If You're A Manager, Keep The Hell Away!' " September



Sid Justice (left), formerly known as Sid Vicious, may be outstanding, but reader Hannah Sanders isn't ready to hand him the WWF crown just yet. Reader Allie Barnes is glad Rick Rude dumped Bobby Heenan (above).

1991). Why this very talented competitor ever thought he needed a manager in the first place is a mystery to me.

I mean, look at the rejects he's had guiding his career: Percy Pringle, Paul Jones, Bobby Heenan. These men could do absolutely nothing that Rick couldn't have done himself. Now on his own, on the independent circuit, Rude is demonstrating his skills.

Sure, Rude isn't grappling with the top-flight competition, but he's just

preparing himself for a comeback to the big-time. When he finally does return to WCW or the WWF, he's going to be twice as great. Bank on it!

ALLIE BARNES  
Newark, NJ

### **STEAMBOAT THEATRICS**

Matt Brock was overly critical in accusing Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat of relying on theatrics ("Matt Brock's *(Continued on page 52)*



Forget the dragon costume and the fire-breathing; Rick Steamboat is a sensational athlete who doesn't deserve to be criticized for theatrics, in reader Frank Johnson's view.



# SAKS' NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

I'll admit it: Sometimes we go way out on the limb with some of our predictions. Sometimes we end up looking a bit foolish. Then again, sometimes we're right on the mark.

Like, for instance, David Rosenbaum's story in the July 1991 edition of our sister publication Sports Review Wrestling: "Lex Luger: His Only Good Future Is A Bad Future."

Let me quote Dave's story:

"... the path of good might not be the best for Luger. He might be one of those rare athletes born for rulebreaking. It is unfortunate, but Luger's best future may be as a bad man."

You never want to see a man turn bad. But, at the same time, it's painful to watch a man go against his natural instincts. Watching Luger try to be a fan favorite is like watching those Star Trek episodes where some cruel alien forced Mr. Spock to laugh. Lex Luger is a naturally mean guy. He might have been sincere in his effort to be a fan favorite, but he just couldn't hack it.

Harley Race didn't have to read Sports Review Wrestling to know that. He's been wrestling long enough to see 16 different men hold NWA and WCW World championships, including himself on seven different occasions. He knows what drives a man. And what drives Lex Luger, unfortunately, has nothing to do with the fans. Race didn't really change Luger's style before the Barry Windham match at the Bash, but he did change his head.

Back to Dave's story:

"... he has the attitude. He knows he is nearly unbeatable, but he doesn't implement the attitude. He doesn't wrestle like he thinks and acts."

Now he does.



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# NAMES MAKING

**A**FTER SPENDING MOST of his career as a fan favorite, **Tommy Rich** has disappointed his loyal fans by turning bad once again.

"Wildfire" had brief stints as a rule-breaker in the WCW and Southern Championship areas in the past, but now that he's joined **The York Foundation**, it looks as if Rich—who now insists on being called **Thomas Rich**—has become another formerly scientific grappler caught up in the money-making schemes of **Alexandra York**.

"I've been on the career treadmill long enough," said the suddenly arrogant Rich, who captured the WCW World title briefly in 1981. "I'm too damn fine a wrestler to be stuck in matches early on the card. I've seen what Ms. York has done with **Richard Morton** and **Terrence Taylor**, and



**THOMAS RICH**

I'm impressed. My big signing bonus was the clincher, but now I'm looking forward to getting some gold around my waist once again. It's been much, much too long."

Rich's decision to join the Foundation is bad news for the fans, but it's

also bad news for **Robert Gibson**, Morton's former partner in **The Rock 'n' Roll Express**. Morton and Rich have announced they'll be teaming in the future, but capturing the World or U.S. titles isn't their main goal. Instead, they want to eradicate Gibson's career!

"Let Robert find himself a partner—**Tom Zenk**, **Big Josh**, whoever,"



**JUNKYARD DOG**

warned Morton. "He won't last long under the assault of Thomas and myself. And just think—if we drive Gibson out of WCW, Alexandra has promised us *another* big bonus."

Morton and Rich are confident, but their former WCW six-man championship partner is extremely angry at both former fan favorites.

"Sure, they joined York, but you'll never see *me* do it," said a bitter **Junkyard Dog**. "As far as I'm concerned, those two polecats sold me out. They better watch their butts, 'cause the Dog ain't been this angry in

years. And if York or Taylor wanna stick their noses in my business, I'll bite 'em right off their faces!"

At press time, former **Hart Foundation** star **Bret "The Hitman" Hart** had emerged as the top contender to **"Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig's** WWF Intercontinental championship. However, Hart's former partner has also become a force in the singles ranks.

In late-July, **Jake "The Snake" Roberts** was forced out of action after suffering a reaggravation of an old neck injury. Surprisingly, instead of selecting an active wrestler such as **Davey Boy Smith** or **Rick Steamboat** to step in for him in his violent feud against the huge **Earthquake**, Roberts asked the semi-retired **Jim Neidhart** to take his place!

Fans doubted "The Anvil's" ability to stand up to the 462-pound Canadian sadist, but Neidhart stunned fans in Kentucky by pinning Earthquake on successive cards.



**JIM NEIDHART**

"These big wins have done wonders for Neidhart's confidence," said a WWF source. "Frankly, Jim was a little depressed after he was pinned by **Brian Knobs** to lose the WWF World tag team title for the Foundation at WrestleMania VII. Then, when his team with Hart split apart, his future was uncertain. But now, Neidhart has defeated one of the biggest men in the federation—and now he's looking for even more tough competition."

Speaking of tough competition, the new tag team of **The Barroom Brawlers—Crowbar** and **Bonecrusher**—are the roughest duo to en-

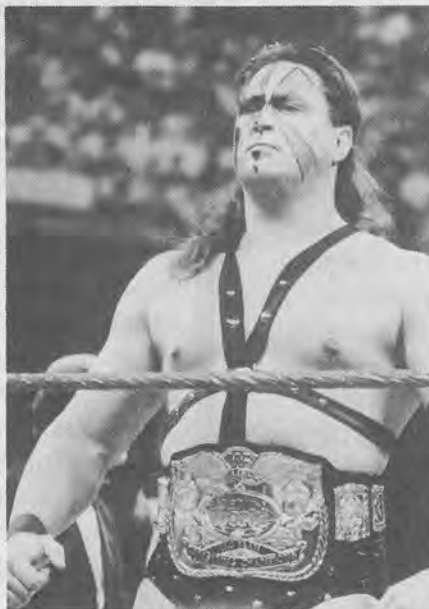


THE PATRIOT

ter the USWA in a long time. These maulers actually bring folding chairs to the ring with them *before* their bouts! "Nothin' like a good barroom brawl," howled Crowbar. I wouldn't want to meet *these* guys in a dark alley... Who is **The Handsome Stranger**, the talented newcomer in the Global

Wrestling Federation? He has the female fans in a frenzy... Speaking of Global, the new champions, TV titlist **The Patriot** and light heavyweight champion **Lightning Kid**, pulled off great upsets in winning their belts in their respective tournaments. Nice job, youngsters!

Manager **Reggie B. Fine** has returned to the USWA, as has huge **Awesome Kong**, his new protege... **Arn Anderson** and **Larry Zbyszko** have formed an outstanding new tag team called **The Enforcers** in WCW—and shockingly, they've challenged **The Freebirds** for their U.S. tag team belts... PNW's **Bruise Brothers** are more brutal than ever, but they're not the tag team champs anymore. **Crush**, formerly of **Demolition**, and **Steve Doll** ended their reign on July 27 in Portland, Oregon.



CRUSH

I'm sad to report the death of former Japanese grappling legend **Mr. Moto** on July 6 in Los Angeles. Moto was one of the top stars of the '50s and '60s, competing both as a rulebreaker and as a fan favorite... **Magnificent**



MAGNIFICENT MIMI

**Mimi**, frustrated by her inability to gain title shots against LPWA champion **Lady X**, has become more vicious than ever... New Japan officials are allowing **Rick** and **Scott Steiner** to keep their IWGP tag team title, even though the prognosis for Scott is that he'll be out of action for many more months with his torn left bicep.

Finally, **Paul Orndorff** has become fed up with the constant sneak-attacks by "**Cowboy**" **Bob Orton**. "Mr. Wonderful" has now asked UWF President **Herb Abrams** for a Texas death match against "Ace."

"Orton's running out of gas," said the popular Orndorff. "If I can just get him in a bout where I can give him a good pasting, he'll slink right back to Kansas City. But I can't do it as long as that slug keeps running away from me!"

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □



EVERY ONCE IN a while, I just have to take a column and get a lot of random thoughts off my mind. So here goes:

Everyone is having their say about **Hulk Hogan** on *The Arsenio Hall Show*, but I haven't heard anyone mention yet that Hogan said the word "basically" 25 times in the first segment alone (I've read several lower estimates, but I'm giving Hogan full credit for when he tried to say the word and Arsenio cut him off). Basically, that says to me that Hogan, basically, was basically, like, you know, like, basically nervous, you



Hulk Hogan

know? . . . I applaud **Vince McMahon** for his intention to institute a strong steroid testing and education program in the WWF. But I hope he understands that when he says that "this new program will be so comprehensive as to be the standard for all professional athletes, leagues, and sports," he's challenging *all* the press to look over his shoulder and prove him wrong. Take your own words seriously, Vince: Remember what happened to **Gary Hart** (the politician, not the former manager) in 1987 when he challenged the press to prove he was fooling around? A couple of weeks later, his picture was plastered on the front page of the *National Enquirer* with **Donna Rice** . . . **Johnny B. Badd** looks so much like **Little Richard** it's downright frightening . . . **The Patriot** is a good wrestler, and the new Global Wrestling Federation seems to be off to a solid start. But there were plenty of good feelings when the UWF began, too, and that federation seems to have lost an awful lot of momentum in the past few months. Still, I'm pulling for Global (and the UWF, for that matter) to be highly successful . . . Footnote to the story on **The Mountie** elsewhere in this issue: In late-July, **Jacques Rougeau** made his first Canadian appearance since reaching an agreement with the **Royal Canadian Mounted Police**. He wrestled as Jacques Rougeau and left the Mountie outfit in the States. Good move, Jacques . . . I understand why everyone is dumping on **Lex Luger**. After all, he didn't beat a champion to cap-

## ON THE ROAD

with  
CRAIG PETERS

ture his WCW World title. But let's give the "Total Package" a chance, shall we? We can argue all night long about whether he would or wouldn't have beaten **Ric Flair** at the Baltimore Great American Bash, but the next few months will really tell whether Luger is a worthy champion or not (and he can be worthy despite the presence of **Harley Race** and **Mr. Hughes**). After all, in his first weeks as champion, Luger has already faced Windham, **Bobby Eaton**, and **Ron Simmons**. Not bad for starters

. . . As for Flair, I really don't think

WCW will be affected too greatly by his leaving. Yes, fans will howl and scream, but let's face facts: Flair was past his prime as a wrestler, and he was entering a new prime as a man adept at using other men to protect himself. Toward the end, it was an embarrassing spectacle to watch . . . If you saw my colleague **Bob Smith** appear on a recent installment of USWA wrestling, you know that he was on hand to present **Jerry Lawler** with a special piece of wrestling memorabilia: a 1974 photo of Lawler with **Sam Bass** and **Jim White** (Lawler and White were NWA Southern tag team champs at the time). **Leatherface** ran to the interview set and tried to buzzsaw the framed photo (among other things) into bits. Imagine somebody trying to do that to, say, your prized **Jose Canseco** and **Nolan Ryan** rookie cards! . . . As far as I'm concerned, wrestlers should only be allowed to wear trunks and boots when they wrestle. When a guy like **Irwin R. Schyster** wears a suit into the ring, he has literally dozens of places to hide foreign objects! I would think that if the officials won't do something about Schyster (and **Big Bossman** and **Mr. Hughes** and anyone else who feels they have to wear six layers of clothes into the ring), there would be a grassroots movement among the referees to ban this sort of thing. After all, the referees are the ones who need to keep control of the contest, and the potential for foreign object damage is simply too great to ignore . . . Thumbs up to IWGP officials, who are allowing **Rick** and **Scott Steiner** to continue to hold on to their IWGP tag team title until they're healthy enough to defend it as a team again. I'm all for the 30-day rule, but the Steiners being the superlative team that they are, any team being awarded the belts by default simply won't get the respect they deserve . . . Just like Luger, right? . . . Then again, Flair and WCW had reached a contractual impasse, and it appeared as if the "Nature Boy" was *never* returning to WCW. At least the Steiners are intending to return to action as soon as possible, and I'm sure IWGP officials took that into consideration before making their decision . . . It's official: One month before SummerSlam, and I have finally had enough of **Hulk Hogan** vs. **Sgt. Slaughter**. □



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# TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David  
Rosenbaum

**N**OT TOO MANY years ago, Rick Morton and Robert Gibson were the belles of the ball. The Rock 'n' Roll Express was the most popular tag team in the sport. Morton and Gibson ruled the ring, and they snagged a Tag Team of the Year award for their considerable efforts.

That was 1986. Or maybe I should coin a cliché: That was then, this is now. *Now* is very different from *then*.

The Rock 'n' Roll Express were very big winners in 1986. Just five years later, they are very big losers. Indeed, they crashed and burned at the Baltimore Arena during the 1991 Great American Bash.

To call this match a disgrace to both men, especially Morton, would be an understatement. Even more than that, it was a disgrace to the memory of The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

"It's a damn shame is what it is," said Gibson, who these days talks a lot more than he ever did with Morton at his side. Maybe Gibson wasn't being quiet; maybe Morton was simply hogging all of the attention. Now that we're seeing the real Morton, it's not out of the question.

"I'm a product of circumstances," Morton said. "And by the way, that's *Richard* Morton."

Yeah, *Richard* Morton. Listen, I've never been a big fan of The Rock 'n' Roll Express. In fact, I always thought that there was an element of shallowness to their whole way of thinking and partying, an element that I believe was shared by many of their fans. Morton and Gibson's emphasis on partying and late nights was a

(Continued on page 56)

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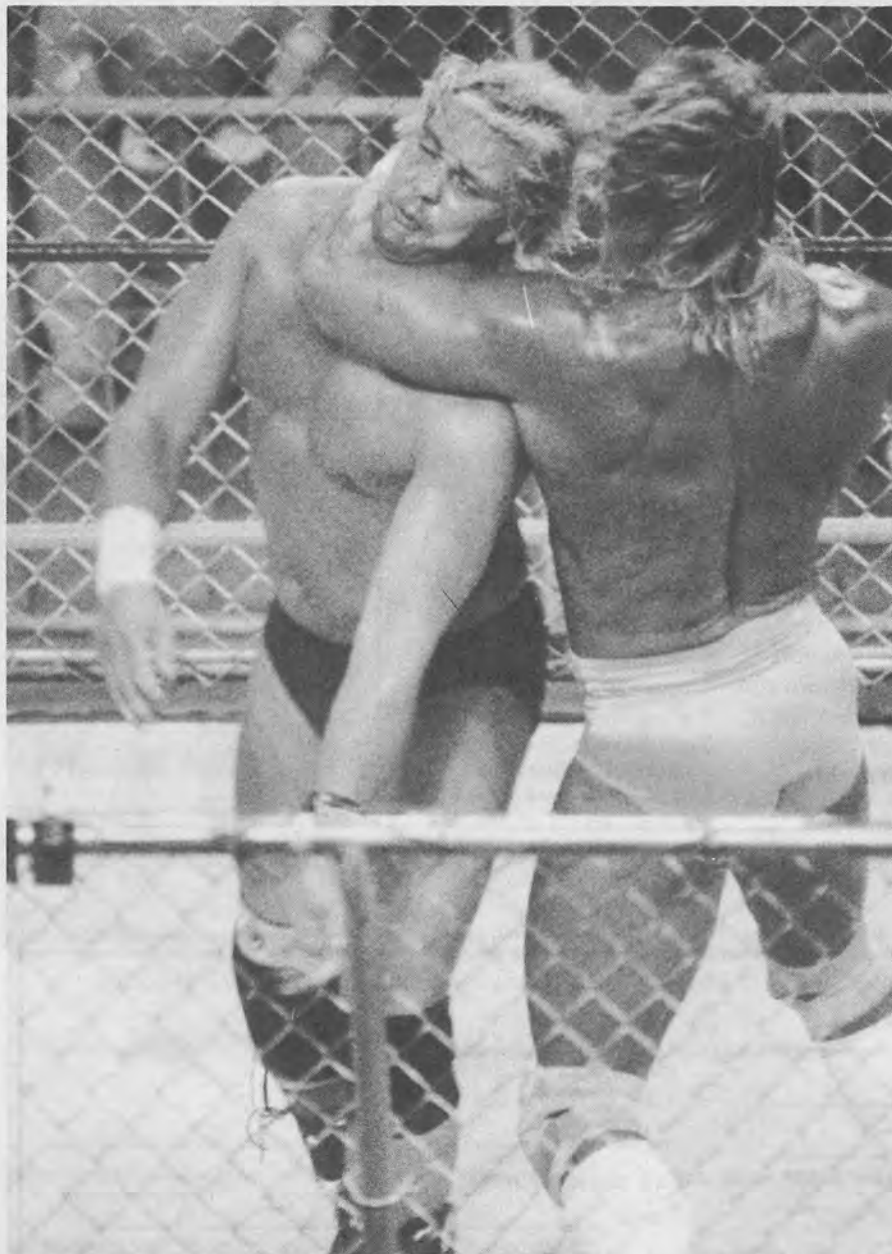
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THE

# INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner



In Ellner's view, Lex Luger's WCW World title victory was diminished by the fact that Luger's win came not over Ric Flair, but over Barry Windham.

*[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]*

## NEWS ITEM: LEX LUGER CAPTURES WCW WORLD TITLE

I don't possess the research staff necessary to figure out how many minutes total Lex Luger has spent wrestling for the WCW

World title. Five thousand? Seventy-five hundred? It took him only 12 of those minutes to pin Barry Windham for the crown. Of course, most of Luger's championship hunt had been in pursuit of ex-WCW champion Ric Flair, who was nowhere to be found at this year's Great American Bash.

The question, of course, is: Does Flair's absence diminish Luger's title victory.

The answer, of course, is: Hell, yes!

Winning the title against a man who also was never a World champion will always taint Luger's accomplishment. It's a little ironic. With seven-time NWA/WCW champion Harley Race as his adviser, Luger had become someone who was, finally, quite capable of defeating Ric Flair. Race possesses one of the greatest strategic minds in wrestling history. The combination is quite formidable.

But it is great opponents who make great champions. Affirmed's victory in the 1978 Triple Crown races reached mythic proportions because of the tremendous challenge of Alydar. Duke's 1991 basketball season will be remembered more for its upset of UNLV in the NCAA semifinals than for its title-winning game against Kansas two days later.

So it will be for Lex Luger. However good he becomes, and however long he may reign, Luger will be remembered best for his inability to defeat Ric Flair for the

*(Continued on page 58)*

# THE BEST IN WRESTLING VIDEOS !!!

## #1 GREAT AMERICAN BASH '88

### THE PRICE FOR FREEDOM

The controversial Bash tour heats up as Ric Flair & Lex Luger go at it in Baltimore. Also Rhodes vs. Windham for U.S. title; triple cage "Tower of Doom" featuring Russian Assassin I, Ivan Koloff, Perez, Rotundo, & Sullivan vs. Road Warriors, Garvins & Williams; Fantastics vs. Midnight; Blanchard & Anderson vs. Nikita Koloff & Sting.

\$39.95/126 min./Turner

## #2 GREAT AMERICAN BASH '89

### THE GLORY DAYS

NWA champ Ric Flair comes back from a broken neck to wrestle former champ Terry Funk, & U.S. champ Lex Luger battles Rick Steamboat. Also: Sting vs. Muta; War Games; a battle of wits turns to a battle of fists when Paul E. Dangerously rumbles with Jim Cornette; plus much more!

\$39.95/120 min./Turner

## #3 GREAT AMERICAN BASH '90

### NEW REVOLUTION

Sting, back in action in a wrestling revolution as the greatest stars from the NWA battle the new young aggressors! Sting in a great comeback against Ric Flair for the championship. Also: Doom vs. Rock 'n Roll Express, Mean Mark vs. Lex Luger, Southern Boys, etc.

\$39.95/125 min/Turner



## #4 CAPITAL COMBAT '90

The NWA's greatest wrestlers converge in Washington D.C., for a Congress of Capital Combat! Sting vs. Robocop make a special appearance to watch six-time champ Ric Flair & Lex Luger in a steel cage for the Championship. Also: The Steiners vs. Doom; Fly'n Brian & Z-Man vs. Midnight Express, Rock 'n Roll's etc.

\$39.95@120min/Turner

## #5 HALLOWEEN HAVOC '89

A brutal night of devilish destruction! Ric Flair wants to permanently settle the score against Terry Funk. Together with Flair's powerhouse partner, Sting, the two great heavyweight pros treat Funk & The Great Muta to some monstrous portions of punishment! Also: Lex Luger, Thr Road Warriors, The Samoan Swat Team, The Skyscrapers, The Freebirds and many more!

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## #6 HALLOWEEN HAVOC '90

### TERROR RULES THE RING

In a terrorizing bout, Sting defends his title against Sid Vicious. Ric Flair teams up with Arn Anderson to attempt to dethrone Doom for the World Tag Team title. Lex Luger & Stan Hansen pound each other for the U.S. Championship title. In a destructive match for the U.S. Tag Team title: Steiner Brothers vs. Nasty Boys!

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## #7 STARRCADE '90 COLLISION COURSE new!!!

Sting vs. The Black Scorpion! Who will prove victorious in the first ever Tag Team Championship of the Universe, featuring Tag Teams from around the globe going to a face to face in a tournament of universal impact! Can Lex Luger hold on to the U.S. heavyweight belt when he battle Stan Hansen? Also: Doom vs. Ric Flair & Arn Anderson.

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## #8 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 1 new!!!

Pro wrestling the way it was! Buddy "Nature boy" Rogers vs. Pat O'Connor in the 1961 classic bout. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez vs. Skull Murphy & Karl Von Hess. June Byers vs. Betty Hawkins. Dick the Bruiser vs. Pepper Gomez & more!

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## #9 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 2 new!!!

Gorgeous George vs. Jesse James. Antonino Rocca vs. Johnny Valentine. Six-man Tag Team Match: The Fabulous Kangaroos & Dr. Jerry Graham vs. Antonino Rocca, Miguel Perez & Ricki Starr. Killer Kowalski vs. Edouard Carpentier & more!

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## #10 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 3 new!!!

Buddy Rogers, Handsome Johnny Barend & Magnificent Maurice vs. Bobo Brazil, "Calypso Kid" Dory Dixon & Sailor Art Thomas, Tolos Brothers vs. Bob Nador & Chet Wallick, Ed Carpentier vs. Skull Murphy, Yukon Eric vs. Fritz Von Erich, Bulldog Brower vs. Bearcat Wright & more!

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## #11 WRESTLING CLASSICS VOL. 4 new!!!

The Fabulous Kangaroos vs. Moose Cholak & Mighty Atlas, Bruno Sammartino vs. Hans Schmidt, Dr. Jerry & Eddie Graham vs. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard vs. The Bavarian Boys, Bobo Brazil vs. Ski Hi Lee.

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# A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



Even Sting admits that he hasn't been wrestling with the same enthusiasm and intensity he did when he held the WCW World championship. That may soon change.

**A** YEAR AGO, Sting sat high atop the wrestling world, fresh from a title-winning victory over Ric Flair and challenging Hulk Hogan for the world's number-one ranking.

Today he is a forgotten man in a federation of change, wondering if he's been left behind in the transition.

Never was this more in evidence than at this year's Great American Bash, where Sting lost a controversial Russian chain match decision to Nikita Koloff. Though the match was closely

contested, Sting seemed to lack his usual fire in key situations.

The rules of a Russian chain match, of course, stipulate that the man to touch all four turnbuckles first is declared the winner.

After a vicious slugfest, Sting and Koloff, connected by a thick chain, had both touched three turnbuckles. As Sting attempted to catapult himself over Koloff toward the fourth one, he inadvertently pushed Koloff into it, causing referee Randy Anderson to award Koloff the victory.

Was it the furor of battle? A lapse in judgement? Or a careless mistake?

"The way I see it, Sting took a big gamble" said Bobby Eaton, "but I don't think it's indicative of anything. Sting's a gambler by nature. And 90 percent of the time, he beats Koloff to the turnbuckle. I don't see it as any big deal. He'll just come back stronger in the next match."

Not all of Sting's colleagues were as sympathetic.

"It was probably the biggest mistake I've ever seen Sting make," said another WCW grappler who requested anonymity. "Unless he goes *through* Koloff, there is no way he is going to get to the turnbuckle first. He should have dragged Koloff out and tried to negotiate an advantage. It seemed like he just wanted the match to end, even if it meant him losing. It's very un-Sting behavior."

"The fans cheer for him louder than ever before," said one WCW official, "and he's wrestling as well as he did when he was champion. These things are hard to diagnose, but there definitely is something wrong with Sting. And the Koloff match is the least of it. I just hope someone figures it out and tells him. After returning from that knee injury, I'd hate to see anything happen to him. But when your mind drifts, that's when you can get really hurt. And his mind is definitely drifting."

*(Continued on page 60)*

If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next

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**Actual questions**

In which sport did Ken Patera win an Olympic medal?

- 1) Weightlifting      3) Gymnastics
- 2) Wrestling        4) Boxing

Who was Hulk Hogan's first WWF manager?

- 1) Fred Blassie        3) Jimmy Hart
- 2) Arnold Skaaland    4) Elizabeth

Which man was never a member of Paul Ellering's Legion of Doom?

- 1) Jake Roberts        3) King Kong Bundy
- 2) Hawk                4) Buzz Sawyer

For which NFL team did Brian Pillman compete?

- 1) Kansas City Chiefs    3) Cincinnati Bengals
- 2) Los Angeles Rams    4) Atlanta Falcons

Gorilla Monsoon was originally billed as being from:

- 1) Manchuria            3) New Jersey
- 2) Croatia                4) Montreal

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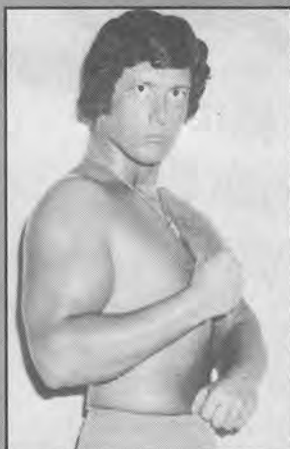
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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

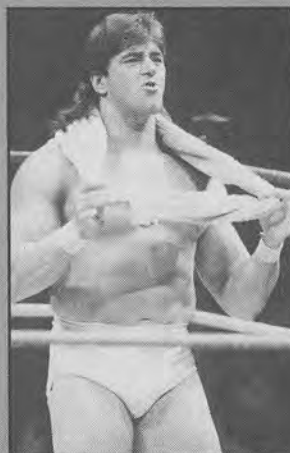
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## JOHNNY POWERS

This handsome Canadian star of the '60s and '70s was popular with the ladies, but even male fans marveled over his "powerlock," one of the most innovative legholds ever used. This well-rounded athlete competed in the

NWF and in Japan during his outstanding career, which spanned more than 15 years. Powers retired several years ago and is now involved in a successful real estate business in Toronto, Ontario.



## RICK MARTEL

This former AWA champion and WWF "Model" recently took some time off to let his body heal from some nagging injuries suffered during his lengthy feud with Jake "The Snake" Roberts. Martel has accepted an invitation to

compete for the SWS in Japan. WWF officials have also stated that Martel was negotiating to make his return to the federation, perhaps by the time this issue hits the newsstands.



## OLE ANDERSON

The former manager of The Four Horsemen is back! This grizzled veteran, who teamed with Gene Anderson in one of the great NWA tag teams of the '70s, has been competing independently in Georgia. On a recent card, the sadistic

Ole battled old rival Thunderbolt Patterson. "I don't care how old the fans say I am," spit Anderson, as vile as ever, "I've got a hell of a lot of fight left in me. Just ask T-Bolt if that isn't true!"



## PENNY BANNER

One of the top female competitors of the '60s, "Pretty" Penny still keeps in marvelous shape. In addition to her real estate career in Charlotte, North Carolina, Banner is still an outstanding athlete. She recently participated in

the National Senior Olympics, where she won the bronze medal in shot put, placed fifth in the 50-meter backstroke, and sixth in the discus throw. Banner is also the wife of former wrestling star Johnny Weaver.

# INSIDE WRESTLING

184

## CAPSULE PROFILE

**P**AUL ORNDORFF IS the self-proclaimed "Mr. Wonderful" (*"That's right, the most wonderful wrestler with the most wonderful body"*) ... A former professional football player, he made his pro wrestling debut in 1979 (*"From the start, I had the look of a winner"*) ... That year, teamed with Jimmy Snuka to capture the NWA World tag team title (*"Jimmy could be a little strange sometimes, but he was a great partner"*) ... In 1981, feuded with Ted DiBiase in the Mid-South area (*"I made him look like a pauper"*) ... Feuded with Snuka in early-1982 (*"No friendship there"*) ... Competing in Georgia, won three National titles (*"That belt's not around anymore, but it was mighty important in its day"*) ... Challenged Ric Flair for the NWA World title (*"It was important for me to do well in those matches, and I did"*) ... Entered the WWF in early-1984 and became World champion Hulk Hogan's first major contender (*"I gave Hulk some of his toughest matches, and he'd be a fool not to admit it"*) ... Managed by Bobby Heenan, he befriended Roddy Piper (*"I thought I'd get a good deal from them"*) ... At the inaugural WrestleMania in 1985, Orndorff and Piper lost to Hogan and Mr. T (*"That's when I realized I had to break away from Piper"*) ... Befriend-

"Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff nails Col. DeBeers with a piledriver. The feud with DeBeers is the latest in a career filled with dramatic confrontations.

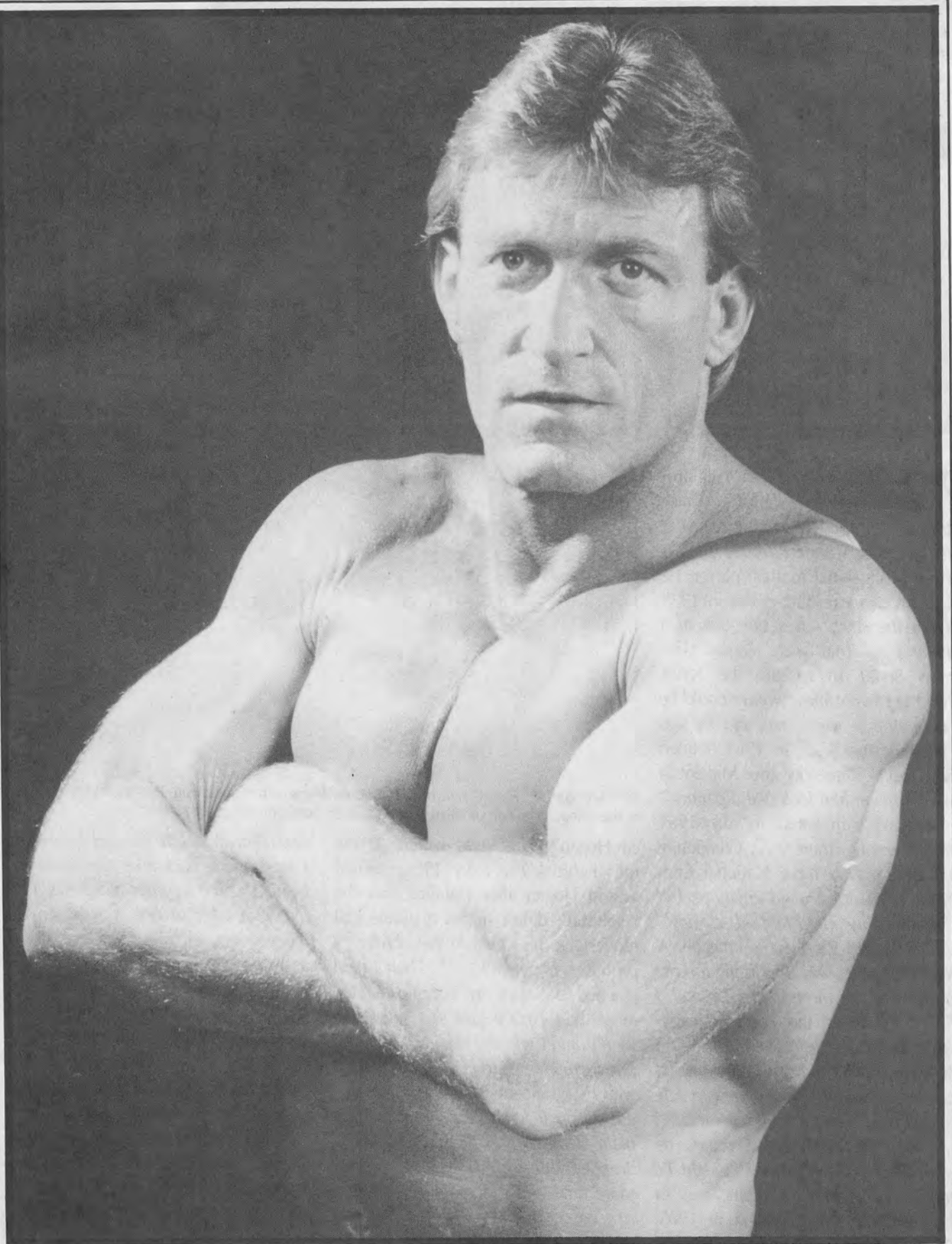
ed Hogan (*"Hulk was willing to cut me a break"*) ... In 1986, turned against Hogan after claiming that the "Hulkster" didn't return a phone call requesting his help (*"He broke a promise to me!"*) ... Their feud reached an apex in Toronto, where more than 70,000 fans saw them battle (*"I didn't win the title, but that was one incredible experience"*) ... Feuded with Magnificent Muraco (*"When I got through with him, he was just plain Don Muraco"*) ... In 1987, dropped out of the sport to devote more time to business interests (*"A lot of crazy rumors started floating around saying I was dead"*) ... Returned to the ring on November 17, 1989, defeating Kerry Von Erich by

disqualification (*"It showed how great I am, coming back after two years and beating a fine wrestler like Kerry"*) ... In 1990, after several months on the independent circuit, came to WCW and joined Sting's "Dudes With Attitudes" (*"I didn't like their attitude, so I left"*) ... Next, it was on to the UWF, where he began a violent feud with Steve "Dr. Death" Williams (*"A lot of bad blood went down between us"*) ... At the UWF's Beach Brawl pay-per-view on June 9, 1991, pinned Col. DeBeers in a strap match (*"That guy is dangerous. After the match, he shocked me with a stun gun"*) ... Orndorff remains one of the UWF's top drawing cards (*"Hell, they even named a cookie after me"*) □





## **CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP**



**PAUL ORNDORFF**

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☐ Nov. 1989: Exclusive Photos Of A Lifetime! Hulk Hogan—From The Cradle To The Throne. Plus: Rhodes (1982), Flair (1980), Snuka (1981), Sullivan (1973), Rich-Sawyer (1984), Lord Al Hays (1973). Classic Ratings (1979). Future Classics: Savage, Steamboat.



☐ Jan. 1990: Roddy Piper's Title Match With Ric Flair Ends In Chaos! (1983). Plus: Sammartino (1977), Von Raschke (1972), Zbyszko (1981), Rhodes (1977), Andre-Ladd (1977), Hogan-Blackwell (1982), Kevin Von Erich (1984). Classic Ratings (1975). Future Classics: Sting, Warrior-Rude.



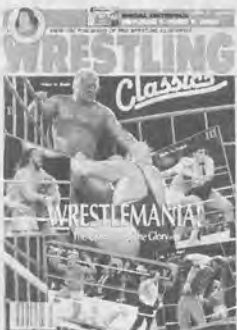
☐ March 1990: The Most Vicious Wrestlers Of Our Time: Terry Funk (1976), Kowalski (1972), Sheik (1974), Brody (1983), Hogan (1980), Blassie (1982), Steele (1973), Abdullah (1982), Hansen (1978). Classic Ratings (1980). Future Classics: AWA Team Series, Valentine-Garvin.



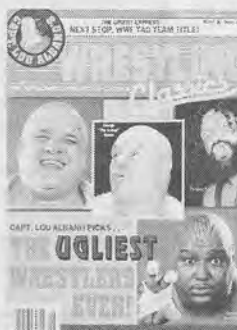
☐ April 1990: A Decade Of Feuds: Bruno-Zbyszko (1980), Andre-Khan (1981), Backlund-Snuka (1982), Piper-Valentine (1984), Slaughter-Sheik (1984), Flair-Nikita (1985), Hogan-Omdorff (1986). Classic Ratings (1980). Future Classics: Duggan, Luger.



☐ May 1990: Shockers! The World Title Upsets That Changed History: Rich-Race (1981), Koloff-Sammartino (1971), Graham-Sammartino (1977), Andre-Hogan (1988), Thesz-Rogers (1973), Stasiak-Morales (1974), Funk-Brisco (1976). Classic Ratings (1972). Future Classics: Andre & Haku, Zenk.



☐ July 1990: WrestleMania! The Grandeur & The Glory: An In-Depth Look At WrestleManias I-V. Classic WrestleMania VI Foldout: Hogan-Ultimate Warrior. Classic Ratings (1985). Future Classics: Skyscrapers-Road Warriors, Lawler-JVD.



☐ Sept. 1990: Capt. Lou Albano Picks . . . The Ugliest Wrestlers Ever! Firpo (1972), Bundy (1984), Mayne (1973), Curry (1965), Steele (1978), Abdullah (1976), Rhodes (1982), Kabuki (1982), Missing Link (1985). Classic Ratings (1982). Future Classics: Omdorff, Orient Express.



☐ Nov. 1990: The Legion Of Doom—They Dine On Danger And Snack On Death: Six stories tracing The Road Warriors' brilliant career. Bonus: The Greatest Tag Teams in history. Classic Ratings (1983). Future Classics: Savage-Elizabeth, Kevin Von Erich.

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# NEWS FROM THE

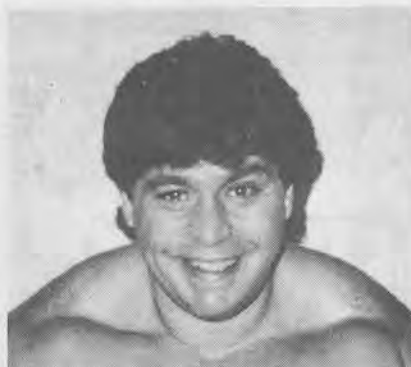
If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

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## BAYAMON, PR By Pablo Soto



**CARLOS COLON**  
vs.  
**DINO BRAVO**



This match for Colon's WWC Universal title was fairly even, until Bravo locked on his dreaded bearhug. After Colon freed himself, he put Bravo in a figure-four leglock, but Bravo reversed the hold, forcing Colon to reach for the ropes. Bravo gave Colon an airplane spin and a clothesline, which also knocked out the referee. Bravo had Colon in a full-nelson when Invader I came in and punched Bravo, allowing Colon to cover his foe for the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Koko B. Ware pinned Galan Mendoza ... Ricky Santana beat Action Jackson ... Hugo Savinovich pinned Billy Travis ... Monster Ripper beat El Prophet ... Invader I pinned Ronnie Garvin ... TNT & Giant Warrior battled Demolition to a double-disqualification ... Rod Price beat Super Medic III.

## MEMPHIS, TN By Mark Mitchell



**JERRY LAWLER**  
vs.  
**ERIC EMBRY**



Before the start of this lumberjack match, Embry complained to matchmaker Eddie Marlin that too many of the lumberjacks were against him. He then called several of his allies to the ring. As Marlin ushered them back to the locker room, one of them, Leatherface, broke through and hit Lawler with a chain. But when the bout finally began, it was Lawler who clearly dominated. He won when referee Paul Neighbors stopped the match due to Embry's excessive bleeding.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Brian Christopher defeated Judge Dread ... Rob Zakowski pinned Chris Candido ... Dan Davis beat Sabu by disqualification ... Tom Prichard defeated Tony Anthony ... Dirty White Girl beat Miss Texas ... The Barroom Brawlers beat Jeff Jarrett & Robert Fuller by disqualification.

## TAMPA, FL By Boris Nutley



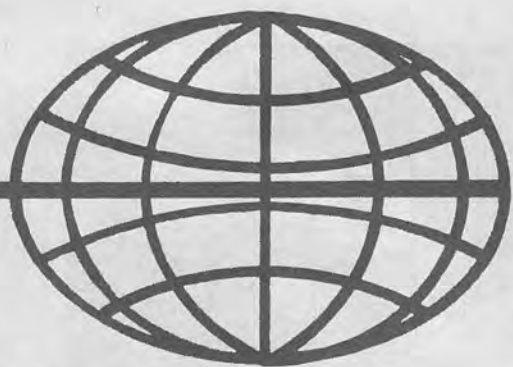
**WARLORD**  
vs.  
**KERRY VON ERICH**



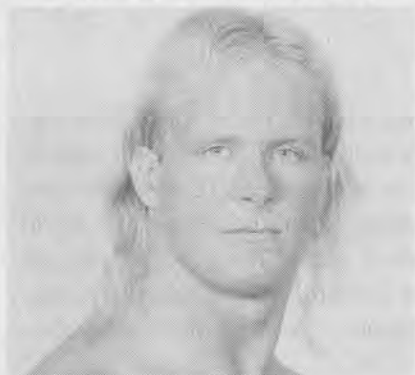
Warlord is more confident than ever now that he has received matches against World champion Hulk Hogan. This match was the classic power vs. power confrontation, as Kerry blasted Warlord with thunderous right hands. Warlord's clotheslines hurt Kerry just as badly. And the action became even more intense when they fought outside the ring. It turned out they spent too much time out of the ring, and they were both counted out.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Koko B. Ware defeated Pat Tanaka ... Animal beat Brian Knobs ... Greg Valentine defeated Col. Mustafa by disqualification ... The Rockers beat Power & Glory ... Big Bossman defeated The Mountie ... WWF World champion Hulk Hogan beat Sgt. Slaughter.

# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## JOPLIN, MO By Sarah Paterson



**STEVE AUSTIN  
vs.  
BOBBY EATON**



Austin, the WCW TV champion, was in for a tough defense against "Beautiful" Bobby, who again proved that he may be a better singles wrestler than a tag team competitor. Eaton dazzled Austin with his aerial maneuvers, but Austin strenuously avoided being pinned. Austin, too, was unable to keep Eaton's shoulders on the mat for more than two-counts. However, that turned out to be to Austin's advantage, as the bout ended in a draw and he retained his title.  
**OTHER BOUTS:** Big Josh pinned Joey Maggs ... Mike Graham & Dustin Rhodes beat Richard Morton & Terrence Taylor ... Tom Zenk beat Diamond Studd ... Arn Anderson pinned Sam Houston ... Rick Steiner beat Jim Garvin ... Sting and Nikita Koloff were both counted out ... Lex Luger pinned Barry Windham.

## PHILADELPHIA, PA By William Terry

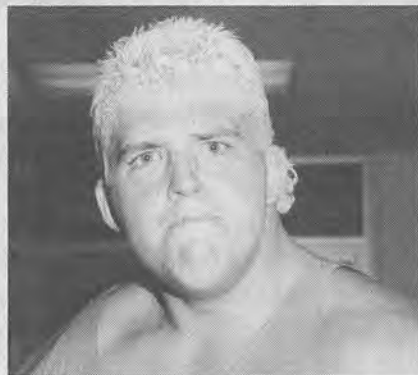


**ULTIMATE WARRIOR  
vs.  
THE UNDERTAKER**



Warrior and Undertaker have squared off dozens of times over the past several months, but this encounter at the Spectrum had to be one of their wildest. Both men held the advantage at key moments, but just as it appeared that Warrior was ready to make a move, Undertaker's manager, Paul Bearer, handed him his ever-present urn, which he used to whack Warrior. The referee promptly disqualified The Undertaker.  
**OTHER BOUTS:** The Legion of Doom defeated WWF World tag team champions The Nasty Boys by disqualification ... Big Bossman pinned The Mountie ... The Rockers & Virgil beat The Orient Express & Mr. Fuji ... Bret Hart pinned Haku ... Irwin R. Shyster pinned Greg Valentine ... Dino Bravo pinned Koko B. Ware.

## EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ By Doug Taylor



**DUSTIN RHODES  
vs.  
RICHARD MORTON**



Before the bell rang, Morton ran out of the ring and charged at Dustin as he was being introduced. Rhodes attempted a bionic elbow, but missed. Morton gave Dustin a spinecrusher and rammed him into the ring railing. Later, Rhodes successfully executed the bionic elbow, but then Mr. Hughes interfered on Morton's behalf and gave Dustin a sideslam. As the referee awarded Rhodes the victory by disqualification, Big Josh saved Dustin from a two-on-one.  
**OTHER BOUTS:** The Freebirds & Badstreet defeated The Desperadoes ... Big Josh pinned Terrence Taylor ... Tom Zenk defeated Diamond Studd ... Missy Hyatt & P.N. News beat Paul E. Dangerously & Arn Anderson ... Steve Austin drew with Bobby Eaton ... The Hardliners beat Tom Zenk & Rick Steiner.

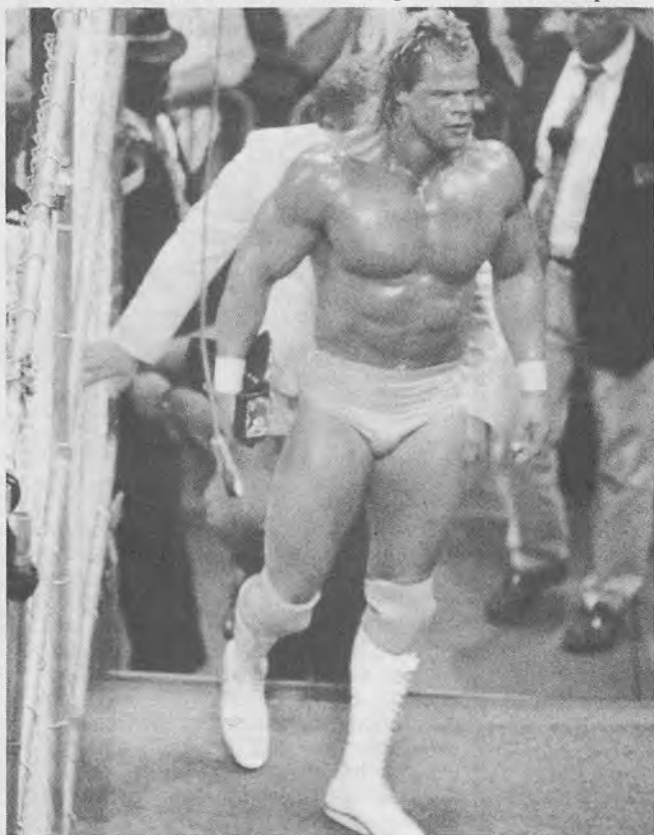




# Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

**BALTIMORE, MD:** World Championship Wrestling had its annual mid-summer party at the Baltimore Arena, and the biggest star in its history didn't even bother showing up for coffee and cake. I'm talking, of course, about Ric Flair, whose contract negotiations with WCW broke down a few weeks before the Great American Bash. Flair left the federation, was stripped of the WCW World title, and the main event here was changed to U.S. champion

nity, but he failed despite a gallant effort. Great wrestling, great drama. What this really proved is that even without Flair, WCW still has the best wrestlers of any federation in the world. On a night when the seven-time World champion was permanently out of town, WCW was still able to put its best foot forward. Maybe Flair's departure will be good for the federation. Now all of the other stars will have their days.



**LEX LUGER**

Lex Luger vs. Barry Windham. By now, of course, you should know that Luger won the World title, his first, during a night that nobody will ever forget. Flair, the old guard, moved aside, and Luger finally took his place. Windham did the best he could with his sudden opportu-

**PONCE, PUERTO RICO:** I keep on telling myself I'm never coming back here, yet I keep on coming back. Puerto Rico, a real hotbed of some very strange and violent wrestling, is a little hard to ignore when you're trying to do a thorough job on the wrestling beat. Tonight, they needed two referees to control a match between Carlos Colon and Dino Bravo, and the match was *still* out of control. Bravo was disqualified when he intentionally put referee The Viking in the direct path of a



**CARLOS COLON**

**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**



**KOKO B. WARE**

Colon dropkick. Folks, that kind of thing just isn't supposed to happen. Afterward, WWC officials were red-faced, but I'm sure they have the solution: three referees next time. You know, adding referees is absolutely meaningless if two guys are just intent on beating the stuffings out of each other, like Colon and Bravo were. Try again, WWC. As for the rest of the card, it was typical WWC fare. For an anniversary show, this really wasn't the WWC's best effort. The Samoan Swat Team beat Super Medic III and The Giant Warrior. Ho-hum. Demolition lost to El Bronco I and Invader I. Smash and Crush, now

a faint WWF memory (and not a WWF memory at all if you listen to WWF announcers), have reached rock-bottom. Saw these guys afterward in the hotel and they were down as could be. Depressed. Asked Smash if I could buy him a drink. "I'm not in the mood to drink," Smash replied. Yeah, real down.

**WEST PALM BEACH, FL:** More on the mainstream media. The WWF continues to claim it's the greatest federation in the world, the media continues to believe these blowhards. Biggest, yeah. Most watched, yeah. With the most popular champion, no doubt. But put the WWF side-by-side with WCW and there's no comparison. Wrestling is sleepwalking through history. Substance is totally irrelevant. Style is everything. Randy Savage will marry Elizabeth at SummerSlam and it's all anybody cares about. What happened to wrestling? Here, Hulk Hogan beats Sgt. Slaughter for the millionth time, Hacksaw Dugan beats Col. Mustafa in another one of these Persian Gulf War battles, and I'm getting sick of it. Thought I had a nightmare tonight that Koko B. Ware wrestled Lanny Poffo. Came to and realized it was really happening. My goodness! If anything happens to this sport, I'm holding the WWF responsible.

**MEMPHIS, TN:** Not a bad place to be if you still like good, old-fashioned, hard-nosed wrestling. Maybe some of these guys get away with too much, but the action is hot, the wrestlers really care, and the fans pick up on it. I don't exactly like the USWA's mixed matches with Dirty White Girl, but I'll live through them to watch Jerry Lawler, Eric Embry, Doug Gilbert, Bill Dundee, Robert Fuller, Jeff Jarrett, and men like that. Not too many federations can match this roster when it comes to real men going full-throttle at what they do best. Roadhouse men. "It's just the atmosphere around here," Lawler told me. "It's always charged. You always have to look over your shoulder. So when we get into the ring, we can't wait for the bell. Listen, there's some stuff going on here even you don't know about it. Believe me, the action doesn't stop at the end of the card." These men *live* wrestling. Maybe I should just stay here for a while. □



By Dave Rosenbaum



**H**ERE WAS A victory of the Canadian style of law and order over the American style of law and order. Or so it seemed. Here was The Mountie, supposedly representing the famed Royal Canadian Mounted Police, using his cattle prod on Big Bossman, supposedly representing the Georgia correctional system, and going in for the pin.

And here were the Royal Canadian Mounted Police getting very riled up about the whole thing. The Mountie? Exploit their image with vicious acts in a wrestling ring? They wouldn't stand for it.

"We took 100-and-some years to build our credibility," Inspector Yves Juteau, a spokesman for the RCMP, told *The Edmonton Sun*. "We don't want it ruined in a short time."

**THE MOUNTIES ALWAYS  
GET THEIR MAN—AND  
THIS TIME,  
IT'S THE MOUNTIE!**

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is one of the most respected law enforcement organizations in the world, but The Mountie is ruining its reputation. The WWF rulebreaker is now going head-to-head with the real Mounties. It's a battle he is sure to lose

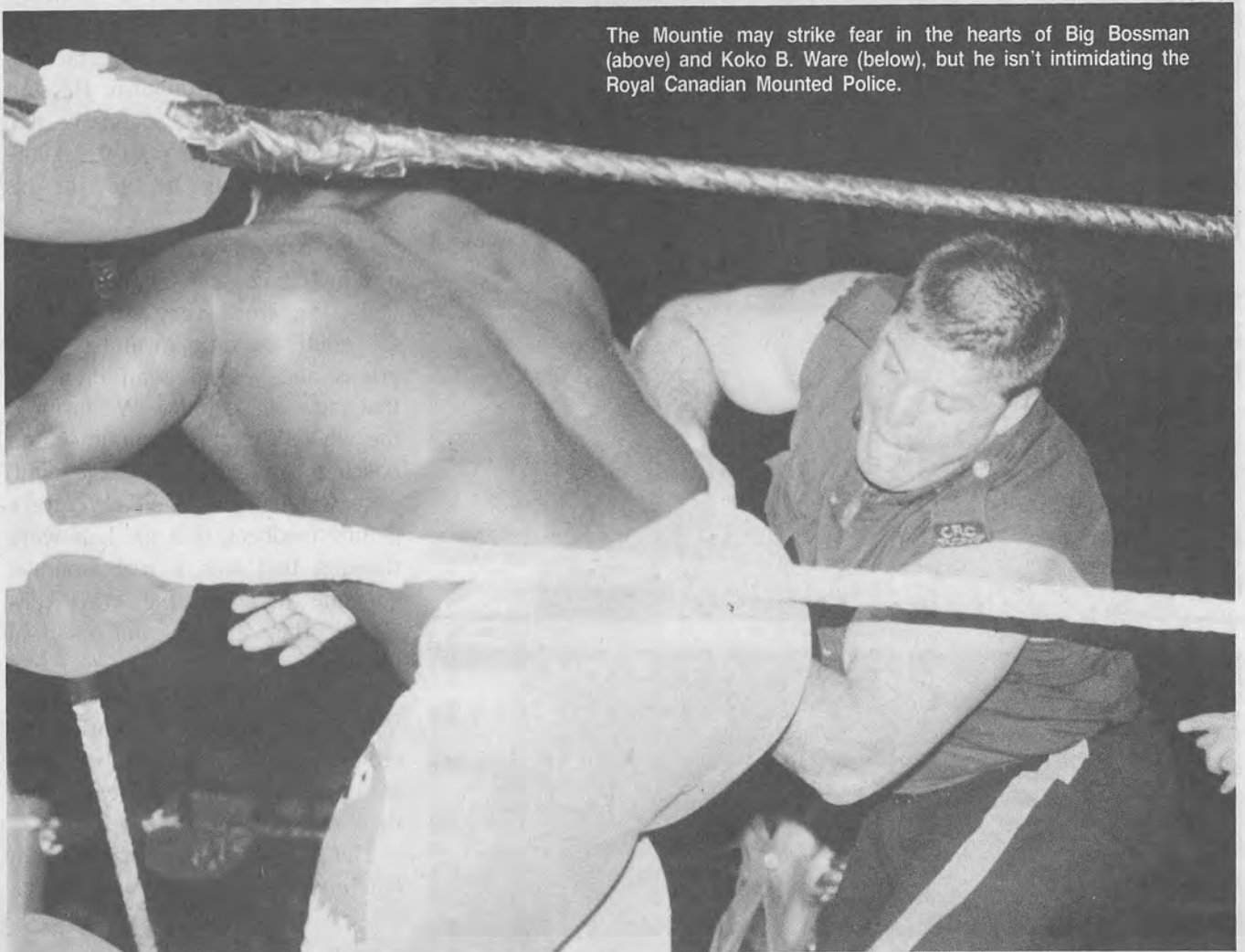


Here's that reputation: Canada's national police force, bold and proud, as a defender of the law. The RCMP as a corps of clean, fit (they once published a fitness guide), and respected individuals who don't resort to police brutality.

But you'd never know it by watching The Mountie wrestle. Clad in a Stetson and striped pants, The Mountie is projecting an image of the RCMP as an organization of vicious lawmen.

It's an image the RCMP refuses to accept. After receiving numerous complaints from Canadian citizens, the RCMP took its case to the WWF. And now The Mountie is banned in Canada!

"It's pretty well a completed issue here in Canada," Constable Greg Peters, a spokesman for the RCMP, told *Inside Wrestling*. "The WWF agreed to finish all broadcasts of The Mountie in Canada as well as



The Mountie may strike fear in the hearts of Big Bossman (above) and Koko B. Ware (below), but he isn't intimidating the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



all live performances of The Mountie in Canada. They were willing to do this, so we were satisfied with that."

But The Mountie is still going strong in the U.S., which is out of the RCMP's jurisdiction.

"As far as The Mountie in the States goes, we're depending entirely on the goodwill of the WWF to take care of that," Peters said. "It's another jurisdiction, and we'd like to see The Mountie eliminated altogether. That's where the status of it

sits at the present time."

Peters said the WWF was very cooperative and actually offered this settlement. He added that the RCMP never considered taking the WWF to court, although that might have eventually been necessary.

"The dialogue was very mature," Peters said. "I think we're satisfied in Canada. In the U.S., that's up to the goodwill of the WWF and what they decide to do."

The RCMP and the WWF had been discussing the situation since February. The agreement was finally reached July 12.

The RCMP's main concern was that people thought The Mountie was a real Mountie. He is not. As far as anyone knows, Jacques Rougeau was never a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Of course, he didn't want people to know that.

"Our objection was that, first of all, he called himself The Mountie," Peters said. "He was wearing a uniform that was a reasonable facsimile of our existing uniform. He stated that some of the actions he did, like hitting wrestlers with the 4,000-volt cattle prod, he got in his Mountie training."

"We have a very respected image in this country," Peters continued. "We work very closely with the youth on drug awareness programs and we have an orchestra that tours the country. We fostered the whole idea of community-based policing. An extremely large audience watches the WWF. We were getting feedback that the kids were thinking that was a real Mountie. On one occasion, the WWF disclosed that he is not a real Mountie."

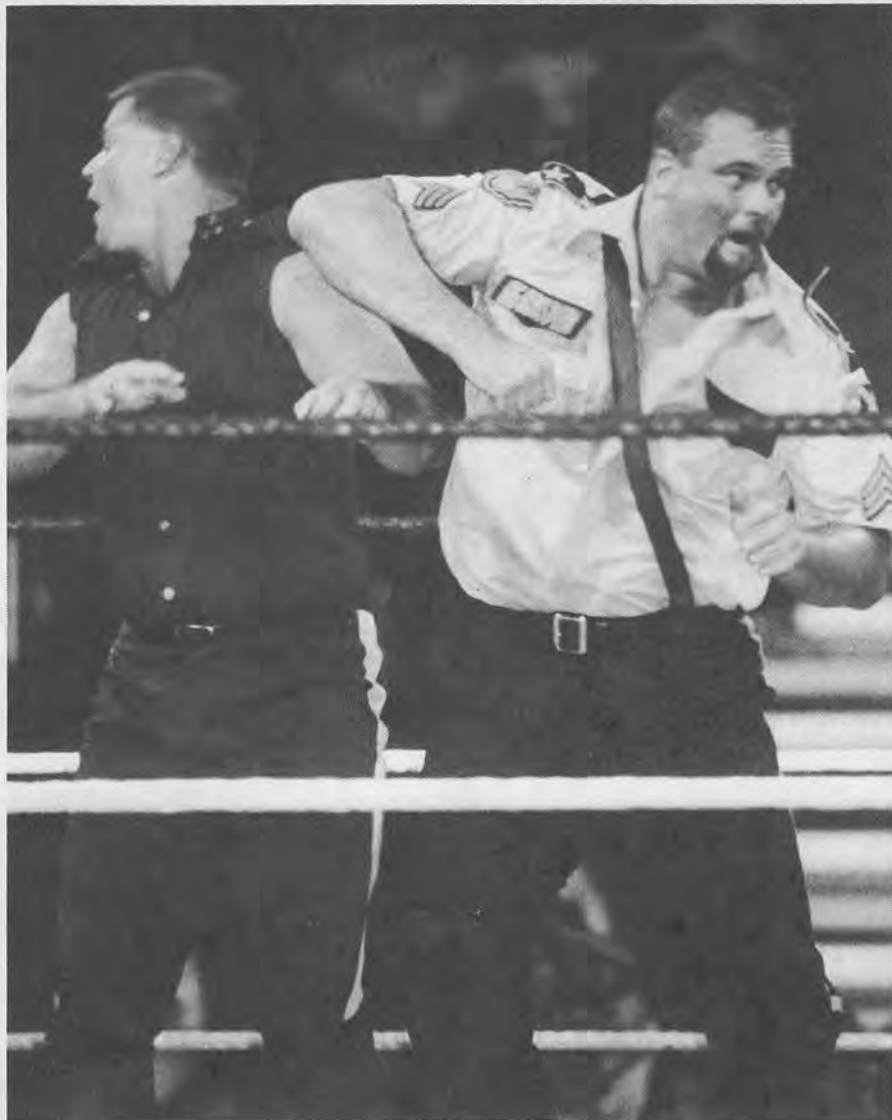
And the RCMP was concerned that people would start fearing the real Mounties, that people would react negatively when one came into their neighborhood.

That's undoubtedly the reaction fans and wrestlers have when The

*(Continued on page 62)*



No longer will Mountie ply his trade in the rings of his native Canada. He will, however, continue to compete in the U.S. against the likes of Ware (above) and Bossman (below).



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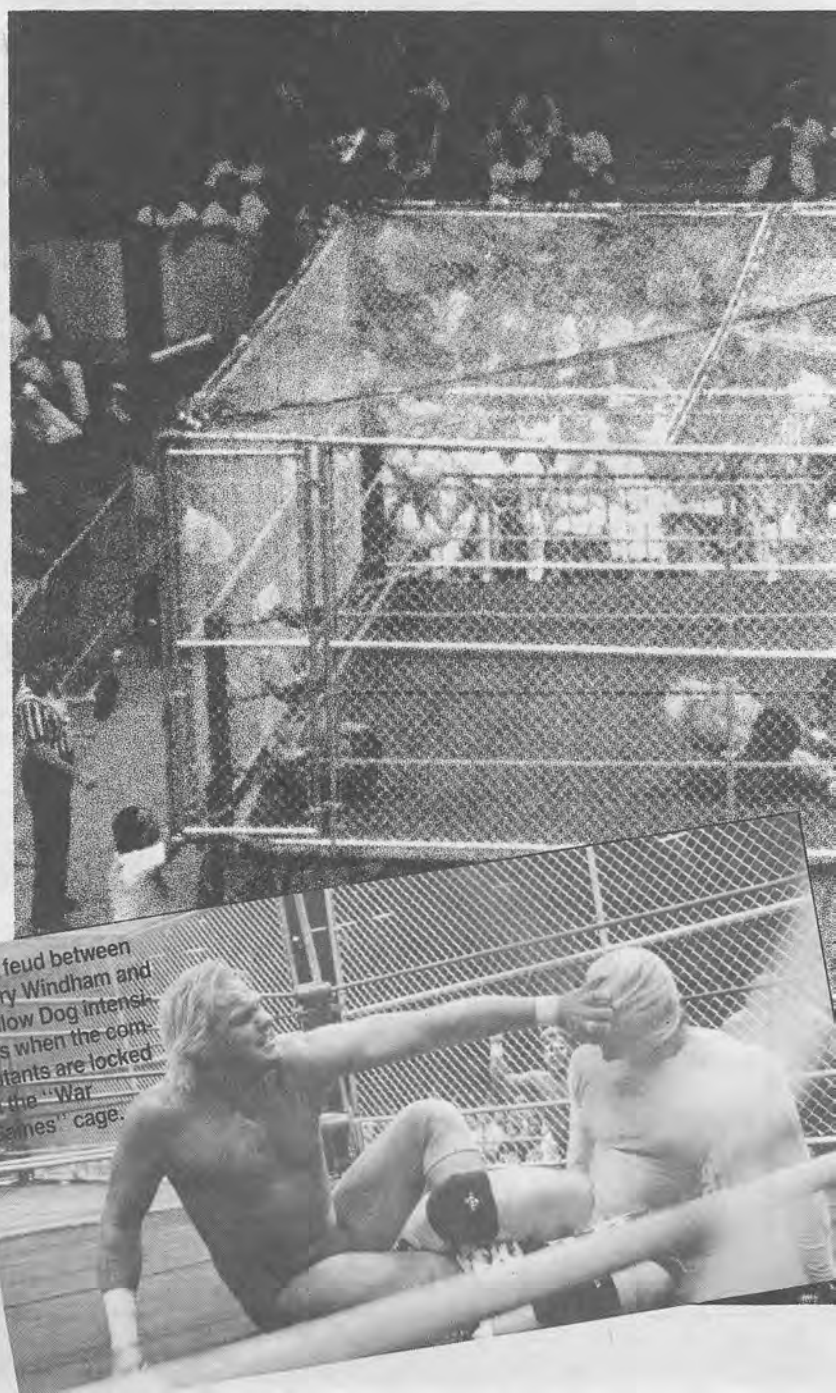


# WAR

## GAMES

Two rings surrounded and topped by a cage. There's no way out! That's the challenge—and the danger—of War Games, a challenge that only the most brave need accept

*Photos by Bill Apter & Al Bello*



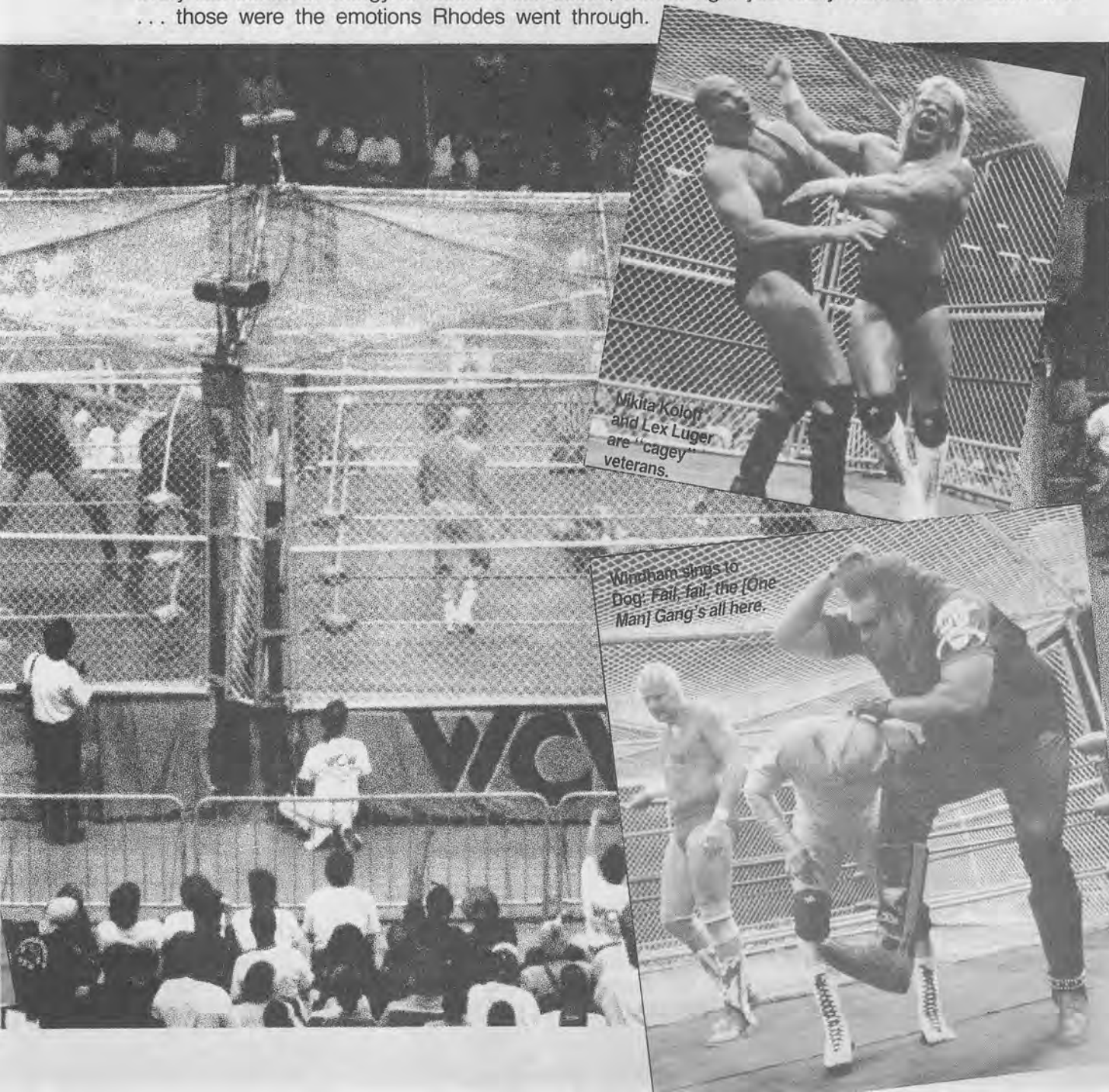
# COWARDS NEED NOT APPLY!

By David Rosenbaum

**J**UST ASK DUSTY Rhodes. The "American Dream" had some great moments in WCW and was involved in some legendary feuds, but one match tested him to the limit. One match asked him to prove how brave he really was.

"'War Games,' for sure" Rhodes said a few years ago when asked what his toughest match was. "I had The Road Warriors on my side, and it was *still* the toughest. I remember being caught on the ropes getting triple-teamed by the Horsemen, but somehow I survived. Those were some of my greatest victories."

The battering Rhodes sustained, the blood flowing down his face, the feeling of summoning up every last ounce of energy to mount a comeback, wondering if you really want to come back at all ... those were the emotions Rhodes went through.







Sting wallops Windham and Gang with a clothesline (above). The "Stinger" calls War Games a match "built around brutality." Hammer in hand, Kevin Sullivan is a wildman in the cage (below). The nature of War Games almost encourages this kind of violence.



A few years later, a new group of WCW wrestlers is going through the same things, wondering whether it's worth it, wondering how they ever got involved in the first place, wondering if there's any way out.

War Games: Cowards need not apply!

In the first place, there is no

way out. That's the whole idea. In War Games, two rings are set side-by-side, surrounded by a steel cage, and covered by another wall of steel.

No way out.

"It's the kind of match that's built around brutality," said Sting, who has teamed with Lex Luger, El Gigante, and Yellow Dog in

War Games matches against Barry Windham, Kevin Sullivan, One Man Gang, and Nikita Koloff. "You know, you're in there, your enemies are in there, and it just builds up little-by-little until, finally, all eight wrestlers are in there and it's like an explosion!"

The most dangerous parts of War Games occur in alternating two-minute segments. For the first five minutes, one wrestler from each side is in the rings. Then one man from one side enters the ring, setting up a potentially brutal two-on-one situation for the next two minutes. (The advantage is decided by a prematch coin flip.)

The sides are evened for another two minutes, but then a fifth wrestler enters, setting up a three-on-two. Not until all eight men are in the ring have things been evened up for good, and by that time, the team with the occasional disadvantage could be battered, bloody, and exhausted. The disadvantage never ends.

"That's when you have to decide how much you're willing to put on the line," Windham said. "It's too easy to give up, and you can't do that. You'd be letting yourself down and letting your teammates down. You have to just go on, and when you can't go any further, you have to keep on going."

Even if the evil One Man Gang is slashing you with a belt, as he did in one War Games match. Even if Sullivan is—my goodness!—using a hammer on Luger, Sting, and Yellow Dog.

Such viciousness is not only allowed in War Games, it's encouraged!

"When Sullivan started doing that, I could not believe it," Gigante said. "I knew he would have to pay. He wanted to kill my teammates!"

When Sullivan attempted to throw powder in Gigante's face, Gigante knocked it back into Sulli-

van's eyes. That led to one of the greatest moments of Gigante's career: He overpowered Sullivan with a clawhold and forced the manager to submit.

"Personally, I think he submitted too easily for War Games," Gigante said. "He did not show guts. You do not submit to clawhold in War Games, even *my* clawhold."

Exactly. Several years ago, Hawk and Animal were asked what it would take to make them submit in War Games.

"My heart would have to stop beating," Animal said. "And even then, somebody would have to submit for me."

Sting knows exactly what Animal was talking about. According to Sting, once you get into the War Games ring, a certain sense of pride takes over. You don't want to be the man who gets beaten.

"You're really not thinking about the punishment you might take," Sting said. "Heck, if I thought about that, I never would have become a wrestler in the first place. You just get in the ring, turn your mind off, and go all-out. Anything less can wind up getting you hurt."

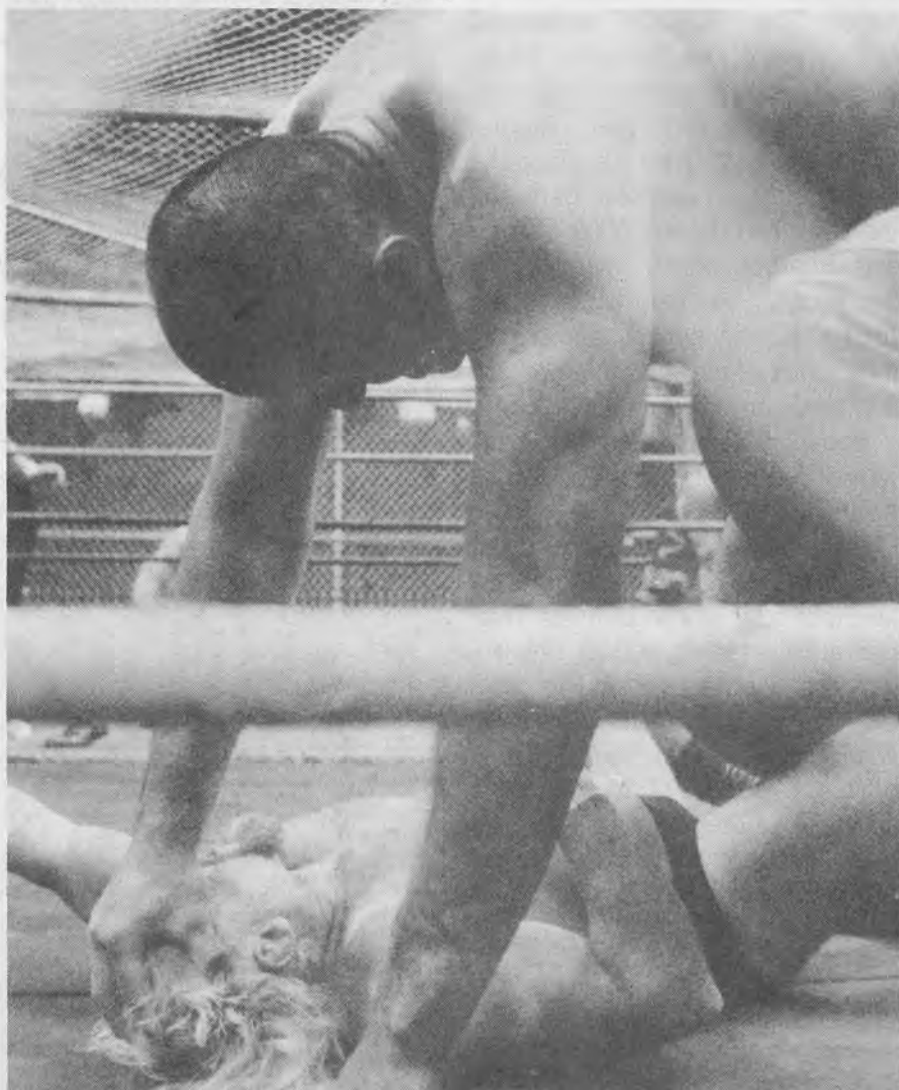
Of course, only a few select wrestlers can turn their minds off before stepping into the lion's den. The danger of War Games is being caught in a lopsided situation with your body caught in the ropes and your head wedged against the cage. It's being battered to the point of total weakness while your teammates are being beaten, too.

It is the most dangerous match for the wrestlers and perhaps the most thrilling match for the fans. It has become an annual WCW event, the federation's ode to carnage, the ultimate feud-decider.

And if a wrestler doesn't have the guts to deal with it, he'd best keep away! □



Sullivan takes a powder . . . literally, courtesy of Gigante (above). The giant uses his mighty clawhold to force Sullivan to submit (below).





By Bob Smith

**F**OR HULK HOGAN, it was as great an honor as any that's been bestowed upon him.

The three-time WWF World champion was invited to attend the opening day ceremonies of the 1991 Special Olympics on July 20 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis. This exciting international competition for the physically challenged has always been an event close to Hogan's heart.

But what was Hogan to do? On that same day, Hogan was scheduled to defend his title against Sgt. Slaughter not once, but *twice*. Hogan didn't want to disappoint his fans in Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky, but he wasn't about to miss the Special Olympics kickoff.

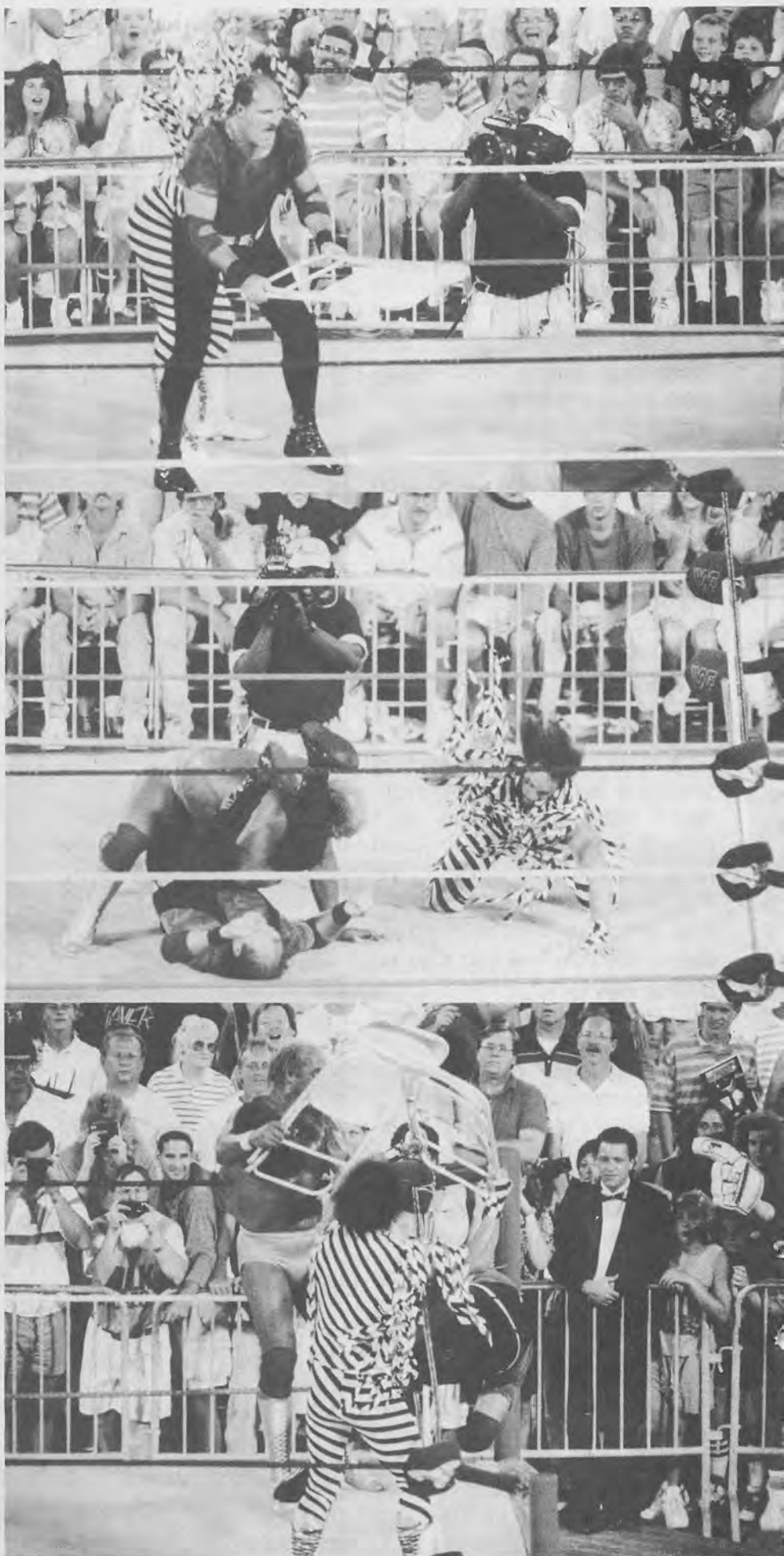
Hogan turned to WWF President Jack Tunney to rectify the situation. The "Hulkster" requested to pull out of the Kentucky bouts, but he offered a unique solution. Hogan suggested that another WWF superstar take his place ... a tremendously popular personality who had been WWF World and Intercontinental champion in the past ... a man whose wedding to his manager was to be the focal point of the upcoming annual SummerSlam spectacular.

Hogan wanted "Macho Man" Randy Savage to replace him in Kentucky.

Sure, Savage had been exiled from the WWF since losing his retirement bout to The Ultimate Warrior at WrestleMania VII, but Hogan has been a powerful force in the WWF for seven years—and what Hogan wants, Hogan gets.

To the shock of many in the sport, The Megapowers—the tag team that rose to great heights in the WWF in 1988—is back, at least

Recently, Randy Savage was the special referee for a bout between WWF World champion Hulk Hogan and Sgt. Slaughter. After jumping Slaughter (top right), Savage counted Hogan's pin on him (middle right), then helped the Hulk chase Slaughter out of the ring (right).



OUR INVESTIGATION REVEALS . . .

# THE TRUTH BEHIND THE HOGAN- SAVAGE CONNECTION

*Photos by David Fitzgerald*

**Hulk Hogan wants to retain his WWF World title. Randy Savage wants to make a full-time return to the sport. Unbeknownst to many fans, there's already been a reunion of the former Megapowers behind the scenes. If each continues to help the other, the ultimate goal of these superstars will soon come to full fruition!**



Savage was hardly an impartial arbiter, but that should come as no surprise to those familiar with the relationship between him and Hogan.





Throughout much of the match, Slaughter dominated the World champion (above and below); still, Savage kept his nose out of the action.



behind the scenes. And even the WWF president can't stand up to a force as powerful as these two megastars.

Savage's pair of victories over Slaughter in the Bluegrass State



The "Macho Man" made sure Slaughter's sleeper didn't turn into a chokehold (above).

weren't his first WWF appearances since WrestleMania VII. On July 14, Hogan took on Slaughter in the main event of a special outdoor card at St. Louis' Busch Stadium—and Savage was named the special referee.

According to many fans who attended the event, Savage was unusually biased toward Hogan throughout that wild match. In fact, Savage knocked out Slaughter with a steel chair that the former Marine drill instructor had brought into the ring—which led directly to the pinfall win for Hogan.

"There's something going on between Hogan and Savage," said Harold Renking, one fan who was lucky enough to get ringside seats for the "Wrestlefest" event in St. Louis. "Those guys certainly didn't look like enemies to me."

The days of rancor have been over for quite a while now, it turns out. And this Hogan-Savage connection has shocked many WWF wrestlers, who consider their sudden friendship an unfair advantage

for both men.

Savage, who instantly returned to fan favorite status following his reconciliation with his manager (and soon-to-be wife) Elizabeth at WrestleMania VII, has been hankering to return to the WWF since his loss to Warrior. Savage briefly competed in Japan, but nothing could replace returning to the WWF, the federation of his greatest triumphs.

At the same time, Hogan was struggling through his violent series of bouts with Slaughter. Hogan was managing to score a pinfall victory in nearly every match, but the sadistic Slaughter had severely burned Hogan, cut him open numerous times, and did everything in his power to cripple the "Hulkster."

In late-May, Savage swallowed his pride and asked Hogan for his forgiveness for his brutal betrayal in 1989. Reluctantly, Hogan accepted Savage's offer, mainly because

job of keeping their rekindled friendship a secret.

"Hell, I saw them in the same restaurant when they first got back together!" said a WWF rulebreaker who requested anonymity. "Right then, I could tell that Savage had changed completely. I knew that Randy was desperate to end his suspension, but I never dreamed he'd chum up to Hulk again. In a way, I don't blame him. Hogan's got more pull than anybody else around here."

Indeed, Hogan's opinion has

can be sure that Savage will be back in the WWF's good graces again. It's a practically foolproof plan."

However, those close to Savage report that the "Macho Man" is getting frustrated. Since he's come to Hogan's aid on three occasions, why hasn't Hogan yet helped Savage end his banishment?

"Savage may be getting fed up," said a WWF source. "How many times must he go to the well before he can get a drink? Hogan must come through on his part of



The "Hulkster" knew that even if he lost, he'd at least get a fair shake from the ref.

he realized there would be ways that Savage could help him in the coming weeks. However, Hogan insisted the two stars keep their agreement away from the ears of the press and fans—but Hogan and Savage didn't do a very good



As The Megapowers, Hogan and Savage (and Elizabeth) were one of the greatest teams in WWF history. That alliance was built on a mutual trust that still exists today.

long been the most influential in the federation. As WWF World champion—and the federation's leading drawing card—Hogan's lobby packs the most punch where it counts: in the offices of WWF officials. It's an acknowledged fact that Hogan can manipulate most WWF officials—even the usually unapproachable Tunney.

"It really makes me sick," said the WWF wrestler. "Randy has saved Hogan's hide three times now. And whenever Hogan feels like it, he can march into Tunney's office and demand that the suspension on Savage be lifted. And as soon as Hogan does that, you

the supposed bargain, or there could be another feud between these two. And really, I don't know if the WWF can withstand another war like that one."

For the time being, though, the situation has been working out to the advantage of both men. Hogan remains firmly in power, while Savage inches closer to becoming a full-time competitor once again.

Hogan and Savage may become the best of friends because of their "secret" pact, or another episode of Megapower madness could be just months away. In either case, the Hogan-Savage story continues.

Destiny seems to want it that way. □



# THE "FINE" ART OF HIDING FOREIGN OBJECTS



By Bob Smith

**The use of foreign objects has plagued the sport for decades, and even the best referees seem powerless to stop it. In this exclusive feature, experts in the "craft" of smuggling weapons tell how they get the dirty deed done. It's an unusual look into the minds of wrestling's most evil men!**

**A** VICTORY OVER The Nasty Boys seemed all but assured as The Hart Foundation—Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart—battled Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags at WrestleMania VII on April 2 in Los Angeles. Unfortunately for the Foundation, they were about to be undone by neither Sags *nor* Knobs, but by a large piece of fiberglass.

Late in the bout, Hart and Neidhart were getting the better of the Nastys in a wild four-way brawl. After "The Anvil" beat Sags down to the mat, Neidhart lifted Knobs into a bearhug so that Hart could blast Knobs with his "Hart attack" clothesline. But as Neidhart covered Knobs, referee Dave Hebner was ushering Hart out of the ring.

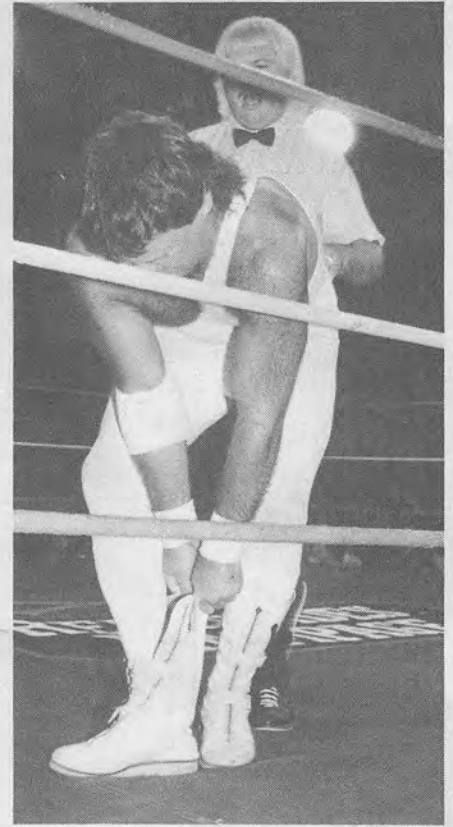
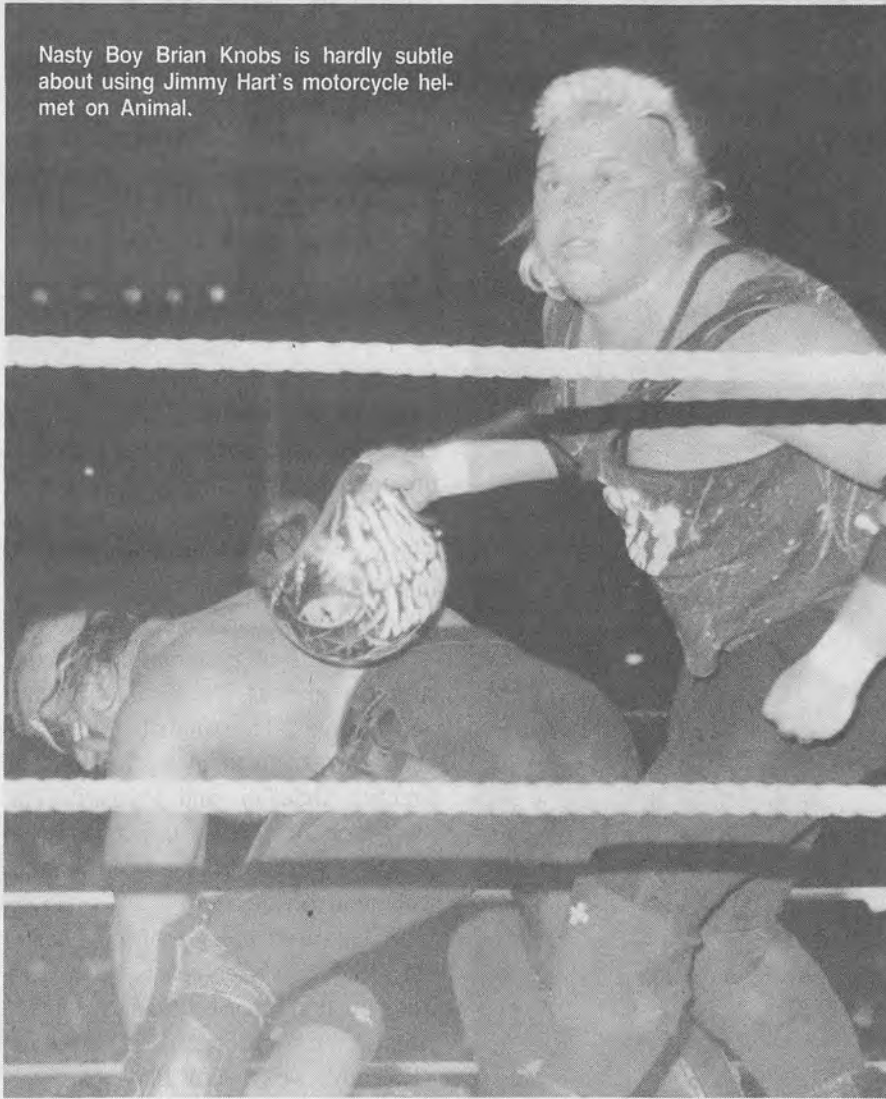
That was all the opening that Nastys' manager, Jimmy Hart, needed. As Hebner turned his back, Hart tore

his motorcycle helmet from his head and hurled it into the waiting hands of Sags. Jerry raced over and blasted Neidhart with the helmet, knocking Jim out cold. By the time Hebner stopped arguing with Hart, Knobs had Neidhart covered for the winning pinfall.

Illegal? Absolutely. Cowardly? For sure. But once again—like thousands of times in the past—a foreign object had spelled victory for a rulebreaker. Most times, a manager—such as Hart, Tojo Yamamoto, or even Lady Blossom—will toss illegal weapons to their men. But the seemingly lost "art" of hiding deadly objects has made a big comeback in recent times, and many fans and officials are greatly disturbed by the trend.

"Things haven't been this bad in the USWA for years," admitted match-

Nasty Boy Brian Knobs is hardly subtle about using Jimmy Hart's motorcycle helmet on Animal.

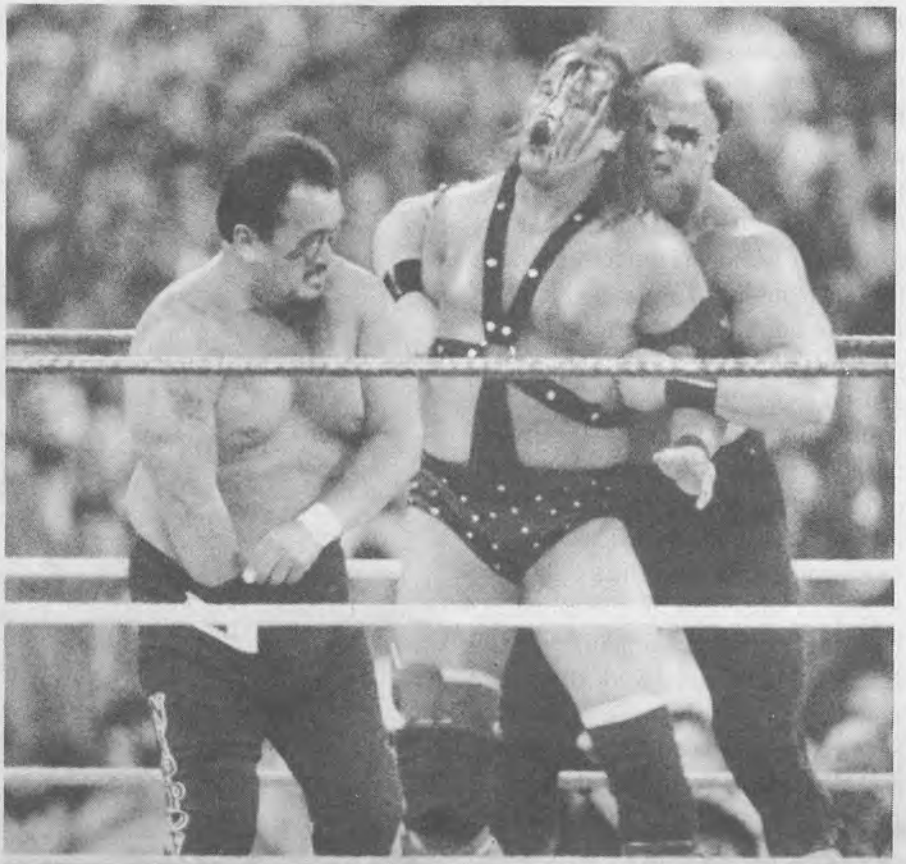


In his rulebreaking days, USWA champion Jerry Lawler hid foreign objects in his boot (above). The devious Mr. Fuji has a "surprise" for Smash (below). The use of hidden objects is growing.

maker Eddie Marlin. "I hate to say this, but when some of our rulebreakers saw how good Jerry Lawler was at hiding chains and throwing fire during his brief rulebreaking stint in 1989, they started copying him. Now, it seems *everybody* has their favorite little helpers."

Indeed, in the USWA there's Texas champion Dr. Tom Prichard, who uses steel-loaded boots to kick his foes into submission; Eric Embry, who blasts his opponents with huge chains; and The Barroom Brawlers, who actually bring metal folding chairs to the ring *before* their matches! Such wanton rulebreaking is harming the federation, and USWA officials seem powerless to stop them.

"To me, foreign object use is a real art," said Baron Mikel Scicluna, a top rulebreaker of the '60s and '70s who retired from the sport in 1982. "Did I







Abdullah the Butcher's great size allows him to conceal even a hammer (above). George Steele was a master at hiding objects from the referee (below).

use them? Sure, I'll admit it now—but I used them *right*. Anybody can bring a wrench into the ring, but the real key is to do it without the referee suspecting anything is happening. I admire Prichard and Embry, but too many of the other guys are much too clumsy, and only end up getting disqualified.”

In his prime, Scicluna was rarely disqualified despite his ritualistic use of can openers and steel bolts—which used to outrage the fans. Thousands of fans wrote the WWF offices calling for Scicluna's suspension in the early-'70s, but since the referees couldn't spot the Baron doing his dirty work, they were powerless to stop him.

“Pockets in your tights is a given,” said Scicluna as he displayed the huge

“church key” bottle openers and toggle bolts he used to blast his foes with. “It's important to *let* your opponent see what you're using—just a quick glimpse. When he starts complaining about it, the ref usually turns his back to *you*—which lets you slip the steel in your mouth or under your arm or foot.

“If you goad your opponent right, the ref can *never* catch you,” Scicluna explained, “because there are *lots* of places to hide things. Today, the only guys who come close to what I used to do are Abdullah the Butcher, maybe Eddie Gilbert before he went soft, and Cactus Jack. They *never* get DQ'ed, but they use anything they want and get away with it. Good show!”

The tactics of past masters of concealment such as The Sheik, Scicluna, and George “The Animal” Steele are being carried on today by the likes of Embry, Abdullah, and Prichard. The resurgence of foreign object abuse is causing a great deal of concern among federation officials.

“Things were going well for a while, but lately the rulebreakers have been using anything that isn't nailed down,” admits WCW official Grizzly Smith. “Recently, we've seen Blossom use a can of hair spray, and Nikita Koloff



has stuffed chains into his trunks. But thanks to the miracle of videotape, we can see these violent acts occur even if our referees don't. And if we do, we'll be swift to dole out stiff penalties, I assure you."

Other federations, however, seem to be perplexed over the problem. In the last four months alone, Embry has used green mist, hammers, tape from

his wrists, and several kinds of chains during his matches—and he hasn't been disqualified even *once*. Like the classic foreign object users of the past, Embry admits no wrongdoing at all.

"People who accuse me of using foreign objects are only jealous that they can't beat me," said Embry after beating young Rob Zakowski in a recent televised match. "That's all I'm

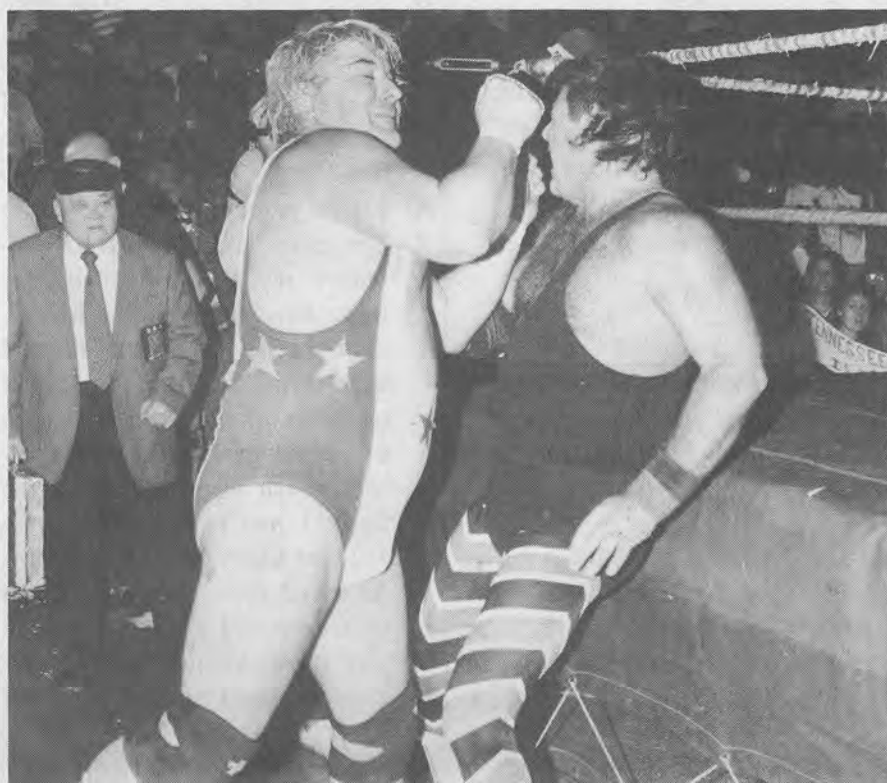
going to say about it."

Hopefully, USWA officials will take stern action against Embry. However, one expert insists that no matter what officials do, smuggled articles will always be a part of wrestling.

"If they're talking about trying to do away with objects, they're just spitting in the wind," insists Scicluna. "There isn't the rule in the world that



Baron Mikel Scicluna enjoyed blasting his opponents with illegal weapons (above), and commends Eric Embry (below) for carrying on the evil tradition.



a crafty brawler can't figure out how to break. And to a *real* foreign object expert, *nobody* has to know he's using one. By the time people figure out what happened, it's too late—he's already won!"

Officials are doing their best to make sure that doesn't happen as often as men such as Scicluna would like.

"Foreign objects not only hurt the men who are struck with them, but the wrestlers who *use* them," said Smith. "The entire sport starts to teeter on who has the biggest weapon, not who are the best wrestlers. It's my job—as well as the duties of Marlin, [WWF President] Jack Tunney, and every other official—to make sure our great sport stays a battle of men, not metal." □



# HOTSEAT

## LEX LUGER

### "IT'S TIME FOR THE WORLD TO FORGET RIC FLAIR"

**T**HERE'S NO USE denying what has become a sad but undeniable fact: Lex Luger, after more than one year as a fan favorite, has become a rulebreaker again.

The "Total Package" shocked his loyal fans during his July 14 Great American Bash steel-cage main event against Barry Windham for the vacant WCW World title.

About a dozen minutes into the bout, seven-time World champion Harley Race (a career rulebreaker) and former York Foundation bodyguard Mr. Hughes came to ringside. The fans—and Windham—believed Race and Hughes were there to give the Texan moral support, but Race yelled for Luger to rock Windham with a piledriver. After Luger did just that—and scored the winning pinfall—Race and Hughes entered the ring and held the new champion's arms aloft in a victory celebration.

In just one match, Luger went from being perhaps the most popular WCW superstar to a man who had saddened and confused his millions of supporters. But even after capturing the World belt after trying for six years to earn it, Luger was

still not satisfied. He was angered that many fans continued to compare him to Ric Flair, the seven-time champion who was forced to relinquish the title on July 1 after reaching a contractual stalemate with WCW officials.

Associate Editor Bob Smith spoke with Luger just a few days after

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**Flair wasn't a champion, he was a liar and a cheat. I'm already a better champion than [he] ever was.**

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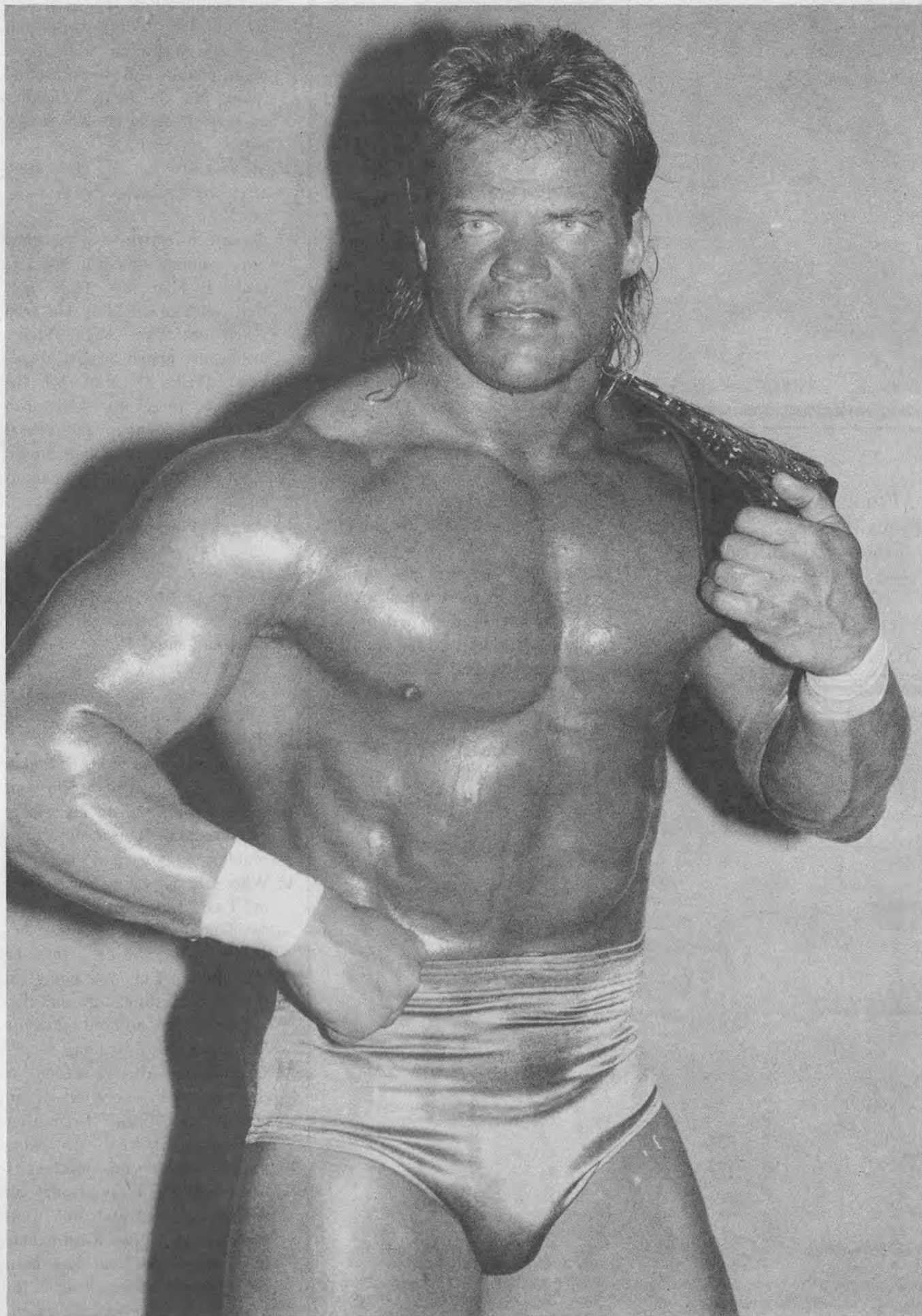
Luger captured the World title. To Smith's dismay, he found Luger to be arrogant and surly.

**Q:** Lex, I guess I have to congratulate you on finally earning the WCW World title. I don't have to be happy about the way you did it, though.

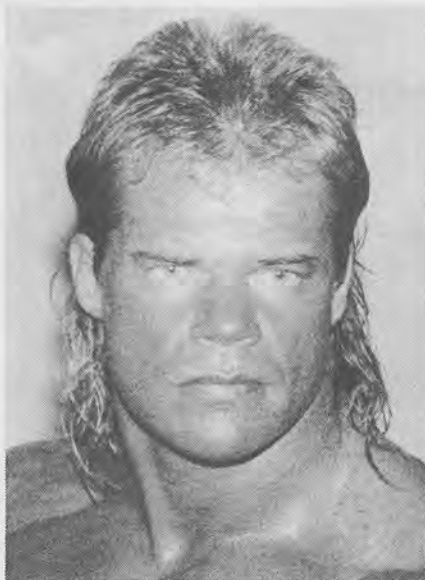
**A:** What's your problem? All of a sudden, people are really hard to please, aren't they? When I beat Windham in that cage match, I beat him with a piledriver—clean, quick, and effective. So don't sit there and tell me I wrestled dirty, or any of that other garbage I've been hearing. It was the cleanest title victory in WCW history.

**Q:** Sure, it was clean. And with Race as your manager and Hughes as your bodyguard, I'm sure all your future matches will be as pure as Ivory soap, won't they?

**A:** Let me respond to you this way: For more than a year, I defended my U.S. title and beat them all: Sting, Nikita Koloff, Stan Hansen—you name them, I beat them. So what did it get me? I wasn't even considered the top contender! No, to earn my title match against Flair at the Bash, I had to beat The Great Muta at Clash of the Champions XV. And then, even after I beat that overrated Japanese goof in just three minutes and 43 seconds, I heard all the other ru-







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I'm not going to rely on disqualifications and disputed decisions to hold on to my belt. I'm going to *destroy* people.

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Luger says his WCW World title victory over Barry Windham at the Great American Bash in Baltimore reaffirms his greatness.

mors, and they made me sick to my stomach.

**Q:** What rumors were those?

**A:** You know *exactly* what I'm talking about. "Oh, Lex has had so many shots at Flair in the past—and he never beat him before. Why should he beat him now?" I got robbed every time I got in the ring with Flair, but people seemed to forget about that, didn't they? Idiots! Then, when the officials stripped Flair of the title, I got *really* angry.

**Q:** Why did . . .

**A:** Shut up, I'm talking. Yeah, for years Flair did everything he could to make sure I wouldn't win that precious belt of his. He's send his Horsemen cronies out to beat on me when it looked like he'd get pinned. Three years ago at the Bash, I had Flair beat in my torture rack, but the officials stopped the match because I had a little cut on my head. Worst of all, once I was laying him out in a cage match, and he even sabotaged the cage so that his bud-

dies could attack me. And yet, after proving to the world that he was a coward and a desperate man, people still went around calling him the greatest champion ever. It made me sick to my guts.

**Q:** So why are you so bitter now, after you've finally captured the title?

**A:** Because everywhere I've gone since winning this belt, all I've heard is Flair this, Flair that. Hell, some of the idiot fans even yelled out "We Want Flair" during my match against Windham! Well, it's time for the world to forget Ric Flair. I'm the champion now, and I beat the great Barry Windham to get this belt. Flair wasn't a champion, he was a liar and a cheat. I'm already a better champion than that guy *ever* was.

**Q:** You're really confusing me. You're putting down Flair for using shady tactics, but then you went and hired Harley Race—a man every bit as devious as Flair ever was—as your new manager. And your bodyguard . . .

**A:** Business associate!

**Q:** . . . Mr. Hughes, well, he makes a living by sneaking up on people and beating them up. That's going to make you a more honorable champion than Flair was?

**A:** Who said anything about honor? I said I'm going to be a *better* champion than Flair was, because I'm going to be unbeatable. I'm not going to rely on disqualifications and disputed decisions to hold on to my belt. No, sir—I'm going to *destroy* people. All I've needed for the past year was a bit of an attitude adjustment. Even after the disappointment of being passed over for title matches, I never really got my dander up and reached out and took what was rightfully mine. Most people don't know this, but I've been consulting with Race for months. As a seven-time cham-



After the title win, Luger proclaimed that, with Harley Race and Mr. Hughes at his side, he will be unstoppable.

pion, he knows more about winning and holding on to a title than anyone else in wrestling history. And he has a no-nonsense approach to the sport that I've always admired. Now I'm following his lead, and he's changed me almost completely. I'm going to pattern myself after him, and wait till you see the change.

**Q:** I don't know if that's something I'm looking forward to. Don't you realize that you've crushed your fans by taking this new approach?

**A:** Who cares? What good did those people ever do me, anyway? They were the first ones to abandon me when I lost the U.S. title to Hansen in 1990.

**Q:** That's not true at all! If anything, your popularity grew stronger after you regained the U.S. belt from Stan at Starrcade '90.

**A:** That's not the way I saw it. Wrestling fans are fickle, they're frontrunners. They love you when you're on top, but lose a match and they write you off

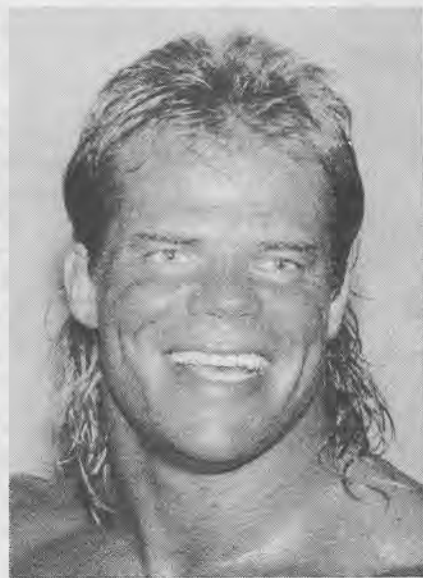
quicker than a tax deduction. So from now on, I'm only going to hang with people smart enough to know what the score really is—that's Hughes and Race.

**Q:** But what about your former friends? How can you forget about Sting, who saved you from a chain attack by Nikita Koloff at SuperBrawl '91?

**A:** Man, you believe everything you're told, don't you? You're just another sucker who's fallen for Sting's line. Sure, after Koloff busted him open with that chain, Sting went around saying that he saved me because he's my friend, and all that other malarkey. But the fact of the matter is that I could've thwarted Koloff with ease. Sting was just jealous that my feud with Koloff was grabbing all the headlines, so he injected himself into the picture any way he could. Sting's always been envious of me. I've always scored the more important victories, and I've always had the better body. I hope the WCW officials give him a chance at my title soon, because I'd love nothing more than to put a few knots in his grease-covered head.

**Q:** Speaking of opponents, it appears you'll certainly have your work cut out for you in the coming weeks. Already, big Ron Simmons has emerged as a top contender for your title.

**A:** Oh, yeah, Simmons, the old Florida State noseguard. He's a big, powerful man, and I guess I have to respect him for that. But he's lost his edge, so I don't think he'll be much of a problem. Back when he was a member of Doom with Butch Reed, he was as fearsome a competitor as you'd ever want to see. But now, he's gone soft—in the head, at least. He's asking for the fans to support him, and that's the kiss of death. I ought to know. I wasted too many of my prime years doing the same



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From now on, I'm only going to hang with people smart enough to know what the score really is—that's Hughes and [Harley] Race.

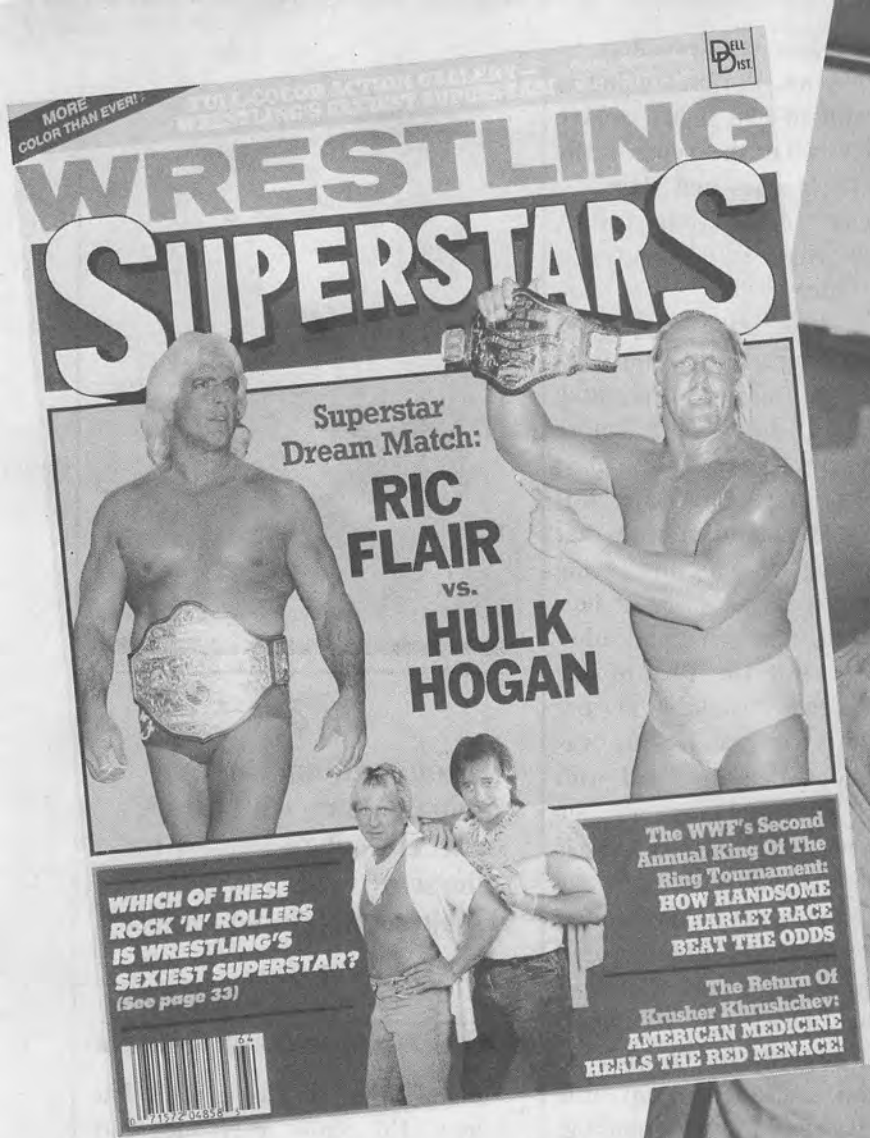
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damn thing. I was a fool, but now I'll show everyone that Simmons is playing the fool now.

**Q:** You know, Lex, I kind of feel sorry for you. After years of trying, you've finally gained the prize you've always wanted—the World title—but you don't seem very happy. In fact, I've never seen you so bitter and somber.

**A:** Hey, you don't know me—nobody knows me. What you're seeing is the *real* Lex Luger for the first time. I'm fully realized now. I'm the champ, and I'm looking down on the entire wrestling world. I'm going to handle my life on my own terms. And if you and the fans can't handle it, well, that's too bad. And from now on, if you want to talk to me, you'll have to clear it with Harley. The old days are over—and my new days are going to make history. □





**The questions started immediately after it was announced that Ric Flair had left WCW: Where will he wrestle next? The seven-time WCW World champion has plenty of attractive options and the choice is entirely his**



# The End Of An Era—Or A New Beginning?



Flair was a popular World champion not only in the U.S., but also in Japan (above). Now that he's left WCW, a Flair-Hulk Hogan match that was speculated on in the Winter 1986 edition of *Wrestling Superstars* (opposite page) may become a reality.

## WHERE DOES RIC FLAIR GO FROM HERE?

By David Rosenbaum

THE WCW'S Ric Flair era officially ended July 14, 1991, at the Great American Bash in Baltimore. With Flair out of the federation and the World title up for grabs, Lex Luger walked that aisle and ushered in a new era.

Somewhere—and nobody knew where—Flair might have been watching. He might have seen Luger win *his* belt with a fabulous victory over Barry Windham. Flair might have been angry.

He might not have cared.

There has always been a certain mystery about Flair. It has never been greater than it is now. The seven-time WCW World champion was stripped of his title after contract negotiations with WCW officials reached an impasse.

With the two sides unable to

come up with a mutually satisfactory contract, Flair opted to depart the federation. It's safe to say that Flair, one of the greatest stars this sport has ever seen, won't have to retire if he doesn't want to. Then again, maybe he wants to.

"Nobody really knows," said Windham, Flair's best friend in WCW. "To tell you the truth, I haven't talked to him either. He just left, and it's like he fell off the face of the earth."

He will undoubtedly resurface. Flair loves bright lights and attention; he thrives on publicity. But the way he left WCW and his subsequent seclusion has intensified the speculation about his next career move. Is Flair done, or will he grace another federation with his spectacular skills and outlandish





If Flair were to compete in the UWF, he'd have to face the challenge of UWF TV champion "Dr. Death" Steve Williams (above). A stint in Japan could lead to more confrontations with IWGP titlist Tatsumi Fujinami (right).

personality?

There are so many possibilities. The one that keeps on being mentioned has been rumored for years: a move to the WWF for an eventual showdown with Hulk Hogan.

This is what most fans want to see. A Flair-Hogan match would go a long way toward settling the debate over whether WCW had better wrestling than the WWF during the Flair era. Here would be an international, multimillion-dollar pay-per-view event that would stuff Hogan and Flair's pockets with the kind of money even they have never seen before.

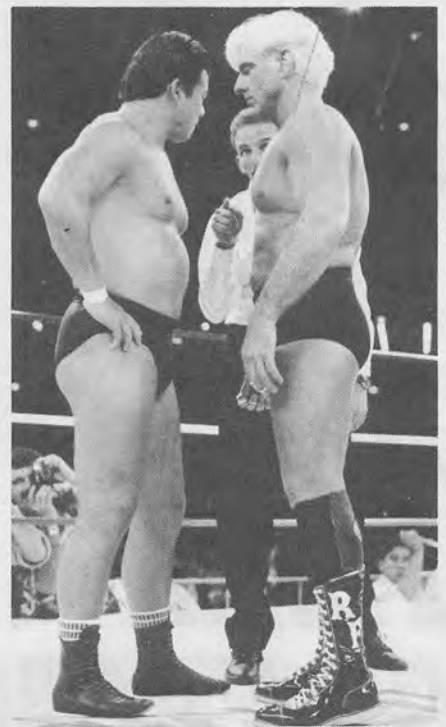
A move to the WWF must be tempting for Flair. He has a tremendous ego, and this would be his chance to prove that he is the best wrestler on this planet. Flair, using a combination of scientific skills, stamina, and one of the sharpest minds in wrestling, could prove that

finesse and brains beats the power of Hogan.

Of course, there are several problems with the WWF scenario. First of all, the WWF might not go for it.

It is well-known in wrestling that the WWF has made numerous contract offers to Flair in the past. He turned them all down. But was the WWF really interested in Flair, or did it just want to take him away from WCW? Is Flair still a hot property now that he's no longer in WCW?

There are other problems. The WWF never acknowledges a wrestler's past. That would destroy its ability to promote a Flair-Hogan match, and would make it meaningless to people with only minor knowledge of the sport. WWF officials undoubtedly would refuse to answer this important question: Why is a Flair-Hogan match so



important?

Other problems: Would the WWF force Flair to start at the bottom and work his way up the ladder of contention, as it has with almost every other new arrival?



In recent years, Flair was often outclassed by Lex Luger, but the "Total Package" was never able to win the WCW World title from the "Nature Boy."

Knowing Flair, there's no way he would agree to that arrangement.

Finally, is there room in the WWF for both Flair and Hogan? Can their two massive egos survive side by side? There are many questions to be answered, and here's one more: Does Flair *want* to go to the WWF, a federation he has privately declared his hatred for on many occasions?

His options don't end there. Flair has always been very popular in Japan and has often spoken of his desire to wrestle there on a full-time basis. Now he has the opportunity. Flair would be greeted with open arms in Japan. The fans love and respect him. All of the top wrestlers in Japan would love to get a shot at him. Flair is a Japan-type wrestler who always varies his game plan and seemingly never runs out of gas.

"When Flair left WCW, every

Japanese wrestling fan started asking questions about whether he was going to end up here," Japanese wrestling expert Koichi Yoshizawa said from Tokyo. "There has always been a feeling that Flair belonged here."

At this stage of his career, however, is Flair willing to make such a drastic move? He has numerous residences in the United States that he would have to give up. He has never wrestled full-time in Japan; perhaps at this stage of his career, Flair won't be as willing to pack his bags and live overseas as he might have been in the past.

There are other options in the U.S., too, led by the new Global Wrestling promotion starting up in Texas. This federation already has an ESPN contract and intends to eventually compete with WCW and the WWF. With Flair on board, Global Wrestling would get immedi-

ate credibility. Signing him would be like the Canadian Football League signing Rocket Ismail. Flair could *make* Global Wrestling.

The UWF could also use Flair. The federation has experienced moderate growth in its short life. Flair could give the league a much-needed jump-start. With the UWF or Global, Flair would be feeding his bank account *and* his ego.

Then again, Flair might opt to put away his wrestling trunks for good. He is a rich man who has already had a full career. He never has to wrestle another match. Secure about his past, secure about his future, Flair could settle into a comfortable retirement. He has earned it.

But in all likelihood, Flair will show up somewhere at sometime. The Flair era in WCW may be over, but the Flair era itself may have a way to go yet. □



**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One**

**T**HERE MAY BE more publicized feuds in the wrestling world right now, but none are more violent than the one that's raging between "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert and maniacal Cactus Jack in Philadelphia. Tri-State Wrestling Alliance President Joel Goodhart is still ruing the day he put these two determined but incredibly sadistic competitors in the same ring.

The first encounter between the manic Jack and the more scientifically schooled (but still devious) Gilbert took place at the Philadelphia Civic Center, where Jack pinned Eddie after bashing Gilbert in the face with his boot. After the match, Gilbert made a demand, and he got it: a barbed-wire match.

Those who viewed this sickeningly violent encounter were amazed at the bloodshed. Some were repulsed; some called it a Match of the Year candidate. Jack sliced Gilbert's forehead and arms on the barbs, but when Jack got his head caught between the top and middle ropes—both of which were covered with the sharp wire—he was lucky to escape the bout with his life.

Even that, however, wasn't enough for Gilbert. He challenged Cactus to a "Triple Trouble" bout. The winner will have to win two out of three matches spaced out on one card. In the first bout, falls will count anywhere in the building. The second fall will be a stretcher match, while the third fall will be in a steel cage! Never possessing a large amount of gray matter, Jack immediately agreed to this dangerous, career-threatening bout.

With the match approaching, we managed to get Gilbert to agree to a

# ONE ON ONE



**"Get your hospitalization paid up, Cactus. Count the holes in your body, because I'm going to add even more—along with some broken bones and contusions."**

**—Eddie Gilbert**

telephone conversation with the crazed Jack. Frankly, we're surprised some gore didn't seep through the phone lines as these maniacs ripped at each other verbally . . . "One on One."

## **EDDIE GILBERT:**

Well, well, Cactus Jack! Are you preparing for the worst experience of your life—three dangerous matches, all in one night? Don't worry too much, you unwashed street urchin, you'll never get to the steel cage match, because I'm going to make sure you get carried out of the Civic Center *long* before then.

## **CACTUS JACK:**

*Hah!* You still don't know me

too well, do you, Gilbert? You see, when I ripped at your flesh during that barbed-wire match, I was having the time of my life hearing you scream in anguish. But even when I got my head stuck between the ropes, I was having one hell of a time. You see, I *like* pain, 'cause I don't feel it like your so-called normal wrestlers do. I'm willing to go to the ends of the earth in order to score a victory. And that's all I have over you, Eddie—a solid string of victories. "Hot Stuff" my eye.

**EG:** That's a crock! Sure, you fluked out a pinfall over me back in March, but that's only because you belted me with your boot—

# N ONE



*"Burn me! Torture me! Beat me! I think it's funny! But I'll laugh the hardest when I climb to the top of the cage and drop you right into the crowd!"*

—Cactus Jack

an illegal move. You know, you do some pretty funny things, to my mind. During my last few months in the USWA, I changed my ways. No more sneaking foreign objects into the ring, no more hatred and deceit. I felt a whole lot better because of it, and I even reformed my friendship with my brother, Doug. But whenever I see you standing there in the middle of the ring with your unwashed, ripped tights and your uncombed long hair, you remind me of everything that's wrong with this sport. I know I have to wipe you out, and Philly's gonna be the site of your demise.

**CJ:** Talk, talk, meaningless blather! Yeah, lil' Eddie Gilbert is gonna

hurt big ol' Cactus and put him out for good. To your credit, I have to admit that you fooled a lot of people during our last match. When people saw how torn up I was, they figured I'd never see a pro ring ever again. But I wrestled just three days later, so how much harm did you do? Remember, you can skin me, you can throw fire in my eyes, but I'm just gonna keep on comin'. This is the most fun I've ever had in my whole life!

**EG:** What? You're saying that our matches against each other have been *fun*? I'm crazy, but I'm not insane.

**CJ:** Insanity is what keeps me goin', Gilbert. I'll never forget when I

threw you into the concession stand during our first match, and popcorn and soda pop flew all over the place. Or how about the last time, when you hit me in the head with a shovel? *Ha ha!* Kodak moments . . . I only wish I had a camera. Anyway, our past matches, I'm proud to say, were the greatest bouts of my career. I proved to all the fans that I'm willing to put my body on the line in order to beat you. This time, I'm expecting more of the same—but it's gonna be the *last* time. I'm gonna end your career, and you'll be my greatest conquest ever.

**EG:** That's pretty bold talk coming from a guy who never scored an important victory in his life. When you were in WCW, you had to be led around by the nose by Kevin Sullivan, and even he dropped you after you proved you couldn't win. Then, you went back to your old East Coast haunts, but who you did you beat there? Chris Michaels? Mike Fury? Big deal! You've got some sensational moves, but they just don't work against men of my caliber.

**CJ:** Now you've gone too far. How dare you put down my innovative maneuvers? My elbowdrop from the ring apron and clothesline over the top rope have thrilled fans from U.S. to Japan. You're just jealous, that's all.

**EG:** Jealous? Jealous of a big, smelly goon with bad hair and no teeth? Get a grip, Jack. It's going to be my pleasure to see them carry you out of the arena on a stretcher. Then I can head back to Tennessee with the good news that I put Cactus out of wrestling.

**CJ:** Don't count on it, Eddie. Burn me! Torture me! Beat me! I think it's funny! But I'll laugh the hardest when I climb to the top of the cage—with you over my shoulders—and drop you right into the crowd. *Ha ha!* Slam dunk!

**EG:** I'm sick of this whole conversation. Get your hospitalization paid up, Cactus. Count the holes in your body, because I'm going to add even more—along with some broken bones and contusions. I'm telling you the truth—and you're gonna suffer the consequences, you moron. □



# WAR GAMES



TWO RINGS COMPLETELY COVERED BY A STEEL CAGE! ONLY THE STRONG WILL SURVIVE! The WCW forces have amassed and there is only one solution to these ring tensions ... WAR GAMES! Bonecrushing teams collide in this spectacular event that can only end by surrender! A KNOCK-DOWN-DRAGOUT BLOWOUT! On this spectacular videotape, see Sting, Lex Luger, Stan Hansen, Doom, Rick & Scott Steiner, Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, and many more top stars of WCW.

## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

Plain Speaking," September 1991). Steamboat is a great athlete, and if he wants to breathe fire to add some excitement to his persona, there's nothing wrong with that.

The important thing, Mr. Brock, is that Rick is a top-flight competitor, definitely one of the most outstanding scientific grapplers ever. The fire-breathing and the costume is just secondary.

FRANK JOHNSON  
Memphis, TN

stand either of them. Like Eddie Ellner, I've been a Rock 'n' Roll Express hater from way back. It would give me great pleasure to see them drive each other out of wrestling for good.

However, if one of them must win and stay in WCW, I hope it's Morton. Joining The York Foundation was the best move he ever could have made.

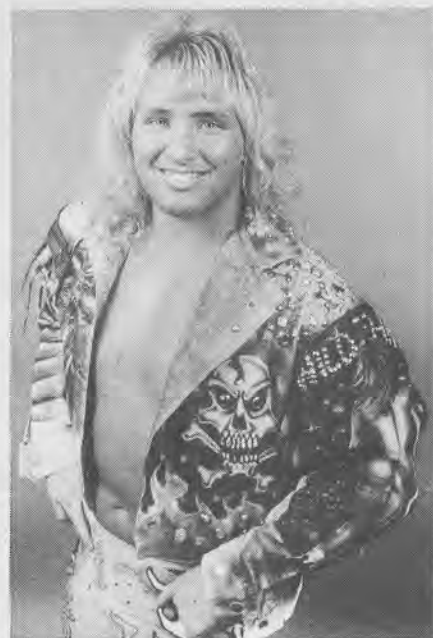
LOU MAHONEY  
Utica, NY

### OUR SPORT

I am in wholehearted agreement with Stu Saks' "Notebook" this month (September 1991). Saks stressed all the good things about wrestling, which is refreshing, because lately we've been reading just a little too much about all the negatives.

When the tough stories need to be reported, they should be reported. I'm just saying that it's nice to have a pleasant read once in a while.

ROY LEONE  
Easton, PA



Steve "Wild Thing" Ray is destined to be a champion, writes reader Natalie Carson.

### BATTLE ROYAL BLUES

Curt Hennig is a crafty fellow, but don't accuse the WWF of trying to protect him ("Battle Royal Scandal! The WWF's Perfect Scheme To Protect Curt Hennig," September 1991). I mean, the federation would love to have a fan favorite as champion. I'm sure they were more happy when Kerry Von Erich had the belt, and I'm sure they wouldn't mind seeing Sid Justice as champ.

The battle royals are, in my opinion, just a way to get more contenders for Hennig. That's all they are. There isn't any secret motive behind them.

PETER ALBERT  
Houston

### ROCK 'N' ROLLED

The "One On One" with Richard Morton squaring off against Robert Gibson (September 1991) was highly entertaining, mostly because I can't

### WILD THING

Steve "Wild Thing" Ray is the hottest prospect in the UWF right now. And the story on him in your September '91 issue ("In Order To Prove His Worth ... Steve Ray Throws Himself To The Lions!") is proof of how far he has come.

Steve's performance against "Dr. Death" Steve Williams should have been enough to earn him a shot at Doc's UWF TV belt, but apparently it wasn't. Ray will have to climb up that ladder of contention just like everyone else.

Ray is a young man who is going to make a lot of noise in this sport before he is through. UWF followers have

(Continued on page 54)

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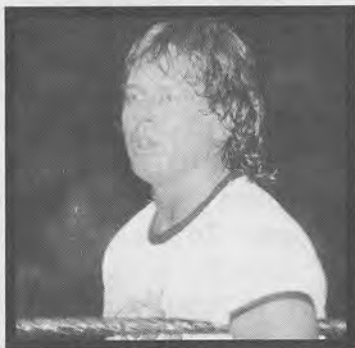
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# THIS MONTH IN...

## THE Wrestler



The "Total Package" unraveled: **LEX LUGER** wins the WCW title—but loses his fans



**RODDY PIPER** faces reality: "He's through—his body just can't take it anymore!"

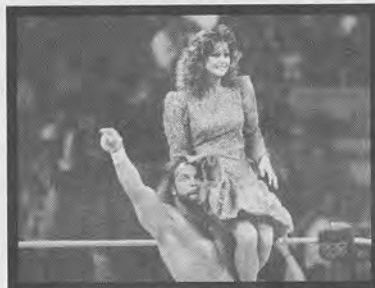
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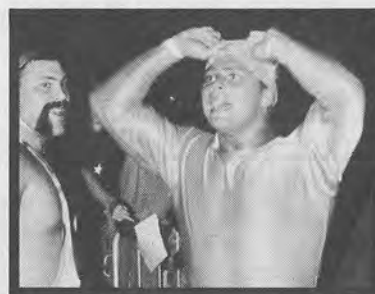
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# SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)

known that for a long time now. Everyone else will know it soon enough.

NATALIE CARSON  
Potomac, MD

## NIKITA KNOWS

Nikita Koloff's victory over Sting at The Great American Bash may have

surprised some people, but I wasn't surprised in the least. You see, Nikita has always had a psychological advantage over the "Stinger." He knows what makes Sting mad and what makes him lose his temper. And in losing his temper, Sting makes the mistakes that allow Nikita to win.

Sting prides himself on being "cool," but when Nikita is around, he definitely loses his cool. If he can't curb those outbursts, he'll never be WCW World champion again. That may sound harsh, but I think it's the truth.

ROGER NORVILLE  
Nashville, TN

## MORE ON MEXICO

Your magazines should start providing coverage of Mexican wrestling. Aside from the legendary Mil Mascaras, there are fine wrestlers like El Canek, Brazo De Oro, and Crazy Boy

32 (an odd name, but he is good). They deserve to be recognized, and not just by reports in your *PWI Weekly*.

SALVATORE AGUANTE  
Mexico City

## UNDERDONE

I am responding to an article in your August 1991 issue, "Ultimate Warrior vs. Undertaker: The Feud That Threatens To Bury The WWF!"

It's amazing how overrated The Undertaker is. In my opinion, it's *The Undertaker* who has fear in his heart. If he is so fearless, why does he have to use cheap tactics like stuffing the Warrior in a coffin, and later a body bag? It's because he fears Warrior and doesn't have what it takes to get the job done without any subterfuge.

Doesn't anyone on your editorial staff recall how Undertaker fled from the ring during one recent match pitting him, Sgt. Slaughter, and Gen. Adnan against Warrior and Hulk Hogan? To me, that proves he's a coward.

If WWF expert Thomas Piliard doesn't believe Hogan can handle a coward like Undertaker, he's in for a surprise. It'll be amazing if Undertaker makes it to the Survivor Series in one piece.

ROBERT HUSE  
Georgetown, MA

## DAN & STAN

Stan Hansen and Dan Spivey are recognized as great singles wrestlers on these shores, but in Japan they are one of that nation's top tag teams. Recently, they lost the Pacific Wrestling Federation and All-Japan tag titles to Terry Gordy and Steve Williams, but they are the odds-on favorites to regain those prizes.

Unfortunately, Hansen and Spivey never tag up in America. If they did, we could all see what the excitement is about.

JACQUES FONTAINE  
Montreal □



Reader Salvatore Aguante would like to see us cover more Mexican action, like Mil Mascaras vs. El Canek.

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**August 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

**November 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

**December 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

**January 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

**February 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

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**September 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

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**November 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

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**January 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

**February 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament**, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

**May 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan**, UWF Tourney, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

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**April 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

**May 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Sting. **Andre**, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

**June 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan**, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

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**June 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steamboat. **Hogan vs. Savage**, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

**July 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Roddy Piper. **Steamboat**, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

**August 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Lex Luger. **Hogan**, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

**October 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Rude. **Luger vs. Hogan**, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

**November 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Ric Flair. **Rhodes**, Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

**December 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Jimmy Snuka. **Luger**, Vicious, Muta, Sting, Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.

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**June 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Sting. **Hogan vs. Warrior**, R&R Express, Rhodes vs. Savage, Arn vs. Sawyer.

**July 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Beefcake, Skyscrapers, Heenan, Saito, referees.

**September 1990/PINUP:** Rick & Scott Steiner. **COLOR FEATURES:** Sting, Hogan, Horsemen, Hennig.

**October 1990/PINUP:** Brutus Beefcake. **COLOR FEATURES:** Tugboat, Ultimate, Sting, Long, Blanchard-Orndorff.

**November 1990/PINUP:** Legion of Doom. **COLOR FEATURES:** Rude-Warrior, Sting beats Flair.

**December 1990/PINUP:** Sting. **COLOR FEATURES:** Doom, Horsemen, Legion of Doom, Kerry, Slaughter.

**January 1991/PINUP:** Kerry Von Erich. **COLOR FEATURES:** WWF vs. NWA, Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri.

**February 1991/PINUP:** 1991 calendar. **COLOR FEATURES:** Scott Steiner, Vicious vs. Luger, Rhodes vs. DiBiase.

**April 1991/PINUP:** Tom Zenk. **COLOR FEATURES:** Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan & Warrior, Magnum T.A., Lawler-Gilbert.

**May 1991/PINUP:** Arn Anderson. **COLOR FEATURES:** Hogan, Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.

**June 1991/PINUP:** Hack-saw Duggan. **COLOR FEATURES:** Hogan, Doom, Horsemen, Steiner.

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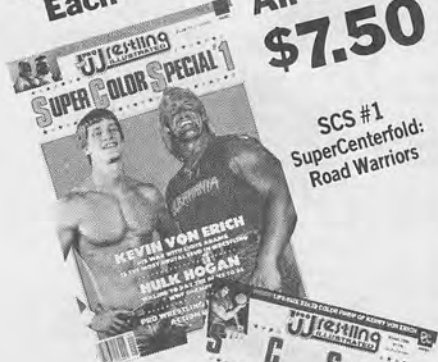


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## DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 12)



The feud between Robert Gibson and Richard Morton doesn't bother Dave Rosenbaum, but he does have more respect for Gibson now.

bit disgusting, especially when you considered that their fans were young and impressionable.

In a sense, Morton and Gibson were irresponsible. But that didn't make them a bad team. In fact, they were a *great* tag team. They were made for each other.

Now that they're at each other's necks, I'm finally rooting for a Rock 'n' Roll Express member. This time, it's Gibson.

Morton is the most pretentious and contemptuous wrestler in the sport, and I'm proud to say that I never liked this guy. Alexandra York, whose laptop computer has been behind some simply horrible

matches, is an absolute disgrace.

At the Baltimore Arena on July 14, Morton, York, and the computer were particularly despicable. Numerous times during the match, Morton stepped outside of the ring to consult with York. This is a guy who used to wrestle to a rock 'n' roll beat! Now it's more like Perry Como with an attitude and 640K of memory.

Finally, in the second half of the match, Morton launched an all-out assault on Gibson's injured knee, the one supported by a brace. He slammed it into the turnbuckle. Gibson somehow fought back. It was the kind of gallant effort I

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must have ignored during his Rock 'n' Roll days. Maybe I was just trying to tune out the music and the screeching fans all those years.

With Gibson barely able to walk and Morton still turning to York and the computer for help, the match took its final turn. York climbed onto the apron and distracted referee Bill Alfonso. Morton grabbed the laptop and smashed it over Gibson's head.

Heck, that's what ex-friends are for, right?

Then Morton covered Gibson for the pin and Alfonso—not aware of what had happened—made the count. The battle of the Rock 'n' Rolls ended in disgrace.

Gibson is promising to fight fire with fire. He plans to have a laptop of his own, programmed to overcome Morton and York. He shouldn't waste his time.

Actually, here's what Gibson should do: He should forget Morton ever existed. He should put the Rock 'n' Roll years behind him. This might result in tons of hate mail at our offices, but I have to say it, and recent events bear me out: Rock 'n' Roll is dead, especially when it has to do with Morton and Gibson.

You know, Morton was the one who always got the credit for the Rock 'n' Rolls' success. He was the highest flyer, the most flamboyant one, the loudest talker. More often than not, Gibson just stood in the background and did his job.

Now we know which one was the straight thinker.

I just can't believe this match occurred in Baltimore. There was a time when Madison Square Garden was where it all happened in wrestling. Now when I think of great events, I keep thinking Baltimore, Baltimore, Baltimore.

Then along comes Morton, York, and the computer to foil all of the memories. ☐

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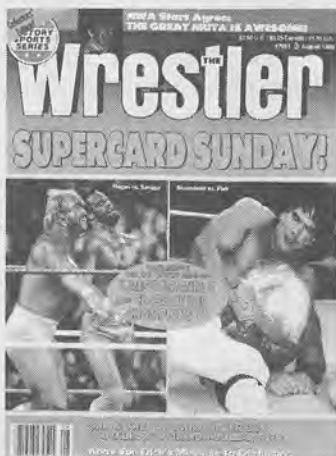
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## THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)

championship. Without a clean defeat of Flair, Luger's package can never be total.

### NEWS ITEM: RICHARD MORTON PLAYS TAPS INSTEAD OF ROCK 'N' ROLL

I'm not embarrassed to say that at one point in Morton's annihilation of his former partner, Robert Gibson, at the Baltimore Bash, I had to turn my head. It was a brutal, sadistic, remorseless—and quite entertaining—demonstration of man's inhumanity toward his fellow man.

ton), they may very well wind up killing each other.

Think they'll let me write the eulogy?

### NEWS ITEM: HULK HOGAN APPEARS ON THE ARSENIO HALL SHOW

He coulda been somebody; instead he remained just the chump—and chump he is.

Hulk Hogan appeared on the popular talk show to respond to allegations that he had taken steroids. The recent trial of Dr. George T. Zahorian implicated



Ellner isn't taking sides in the feud between former Rock 'n' Roll Express partners Robert Gibson and Rick Morton; he thinks they're both geeks.

Forget the result. Who cares who won or lost? Who cares if Morton needed Alexandra York's computer to finish Gibson off? After all these are *still* two of the biggest geeks in the sport.

What remains is the memory of Morton's relentless assault on Gibson's surgically repaired and barely mended right knee. I don't think I've ever witnessed a more uncompassionate display of violence. There is no way to explain it other than to say Richard Morton wanted to permanently cripple Robert Gibson. Depending upon how Gibson reacts (unbelievably, he spoke after the match of "reaching and rehabilitating" Mor-

several WWF wrestlers, who testified against the doctor. Hogan had been excused by the judge, his reputation spared, his image intact.

So why was he sitting next to Arsenio Hall? To condemn a drug that threatened to cripple his sport? To confront the evidence head-on and shame the men who publicly admitted to steroid use? To set a firm example for the youth who worship him?

No. Hulk Hogan was there to protect his greatest investment: Hulk Hogan. He was there as a flunky for the WWF, to talk about their extensive testing programs and of the penalties wrestlers

risked if they failed drug tests. He avoided any direct talk of the evil menace, these steroids, that pose a bigger threat than all other recreational drugs combined. He never acknowledged the wrongdoing of his colleagues, though their naked testimony had been front-page news for weeks and weeks.

Whenever Arsenio Hall would ask a direct question, Hogan would flex a muscle and fall into character. *I am Hulk Hogan, he puffed, and I won't answer anything that will make me or my fans uneasy.*



Hulk Hogan was only looking out for himself when he appeared on *The Arsenio Hall Show*, says Ellner.

It's funny. Hogan wears a handkerchief around his head to cover his balding pate. Not long before, another pro athlete also appeared on Arsenio Hall's show, his bald head covered by a handkerchief. Except Lyle Alzado's hair loss was due to the chemotherapy used to treat his inoperable brain tumors, tumors he attributes to the steroids he used throughout his career. Unlike Hogan, Alzado appealed to his colleagues and to authorities to stop the steroid madness. He admitted to widespread abuse in most major sports. But it was their headgear that distinguished their visits: One wore the covering to conceal his pain; the other used it because he was vain. □



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## ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)



After losing his Russian chain match to Nikita Koloff at the Baltimore Great American Bash, Sting confided to Liz Hunter that it's hard for him to get psyched-up when he's not wrestling for a belt.

After the Bash, I visited with Sting in his dressing room. It was unusual to find him alone and not surrounded by a bevy of media begging for interviews, but all the reporters this night had flocked to Lex Luger's press conference.

I asked Sting flat-out what was wrong.

"Heck, Liz, you saw what was wrong," he replied. "I mean, Nikita was just standing there. I'm the one who made the move for the buckle. So what happens? He's declared the winner. Not only is it not fair, it's downright stupid. Koloff really lucked into this one."

That Sting had misunderstood the spirit of my question was now obvious. I had never heard him make excuses after a match. A true gamer, Sting accepted each decision, win or lose, with sportsmanship, and moved on to the next match. Tonight he sounded like a whining child, and it didn't suit him well.

"I never heard you complain like this before, Sting," I said. "It seems to me something else besides tonight's result is bothering you."

He looked up at me. For a moment his face went blank. Then he said, "I guess it's pretty obvious, isn't it? I don't think I've been myself since I lost the title. I didn't think it bothered me that much, but I watch videotapes of my matches and there is something missing. And I can't figure out what it is."

I told Sting that there wasn't a wrestler alive who didn't suffer a period of depression after dropping a title belt.

(Actually, there is one: Stan Hansen was relieved to lose the AWA title, saying at the time, "the thing's [the belt] like carrying an extra 500 pounds around. Can't go to the bathroom without having to defend it.")

Wrestling without a title, from what wrestlers have told me, sim-

ply seems less . . . fun.

"Exactly!" Sting agreed. "I loved the pressure associated with defending the title. I miss it. Sometimes it's hard to get motivated to get out there and wrestle a regular match. Even tonight, as bad as I wanted to beat Koloff, I'm not that down. A loss like this used to devastate me. I couldn't wait to get back into the ring. Now, it doesn't seem that important to wrestle him again, without a title on the line."

The solution seemed to hang in the air. I didn't have to wait long.

"I want Luger," Sting finally said. "I bet they make Koloff the number-one contender after tonight. Well, I'll just have to change that in our next match. Yeah, Lex Luger . . . that should take care of everyone's problems."

Except, of course, Lex Luger's, judging from the gleam—the old gleam—that had returned to Sting's great big eyes. □

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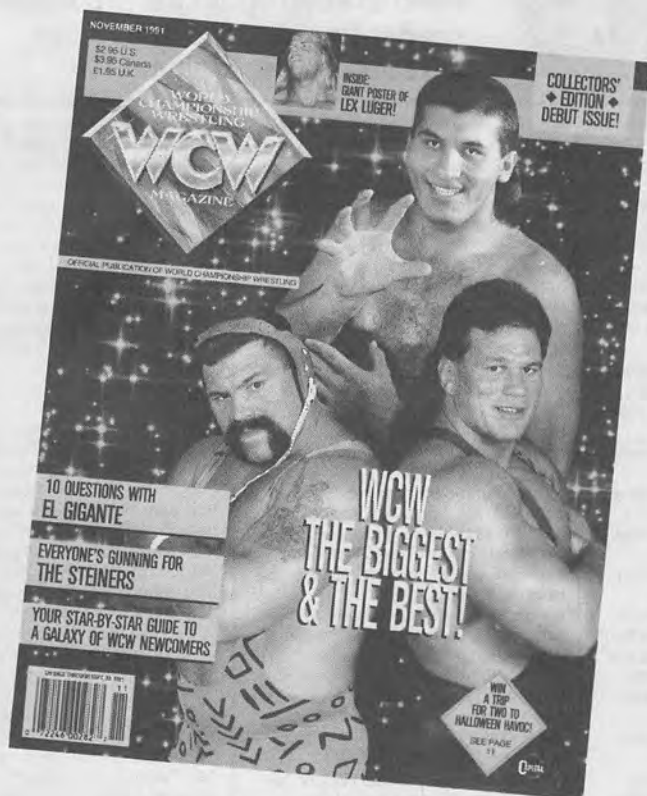
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## THE MOUNTIE

*(Continued from page 28)*



To many Canadians, The Mountie is an embarrassment. They're glad to see him banned not only from Canadian rings, but from Canadian TV as well.

Mountie heads for a WWF ring. He has slowly worked his way up the WWF ladder with displays of viciousness that have shocked even the most insensitive fans and wrestlers.

Big Bossman was once one of the most evil men in the federation. He often used his nightstick to beat opponents into submission and rob them of their dignity. Bossman, now a fan favorite, was tame compared to The Mountie.

Perhaps most insulting to Canadians is that The Mountie is Jacques Rougeau, a fine scientific wrestler who has gone out of his way time and again to give Canada a bad name. With his brother, Raymond, Jacques used to embarrass Canada by transparently claiming that he loved America. When they waved their little American flags, Canadians would wretch.

Now Rougeau is The Mountie, and the embarrassment continues. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police would never handcuff a person and jolt him with an electric cattle prod. The RCMP goes about law and order the right way.

Finally, the WWF decided to solve this problem in the proper manner.

"Legally, I don't think there's anything they can do, but we have a reputable organization that is upset with us, and, in good faith, we want to address those concerns," a WWF spokesman told *The Edmonton Journal*.

Despite these words, The Mountie is still wrestling in the WWF. He is still embarrassing the RCMP in U.S. rings.

The WWF announces that The Mountie is not a real member of the RCMP and is not endorsed by the RCMP. That's obvious. It's also not sufficient.

The Mountie's appearances in Canada were particularly interesting. The Mountie, a rulebreaker, expected to be booed, but the crowd reactions were especially vehement. In Canada, people have tremendous respect for their police force. They don't take its mistreatment lightly.

"I'd hate The Mountie even if he wasn't doing this, but the fact that he is makes it even worse," said John Guilleme of Toronto. "I don't know what Americans think about their police, but almost every young Canadian thinks about one day becoming a Mountie. Heck, we still respect the law up here."

The Mountie, on the other hand, has no respect for anyone and anything. He has rolled over Big Bossman using his style of law and order, not the RCMP's, and certainly not the style of any other police force in a civilized society.

"I am The Mountie," he screams into the microphone. But he is *not* a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Mounties have made that clear.

As always, they got their man. ☐

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Terry "The Hulk" Boulder (Hulk Hogan) vs. The Outlaw  
Tully Blanchard & Gino Hernandez vs. Scott Casey & Terry Allen  
Terry Taylor vs. Sabu  
Chief Wahoo McDaniel & Tommy Rogers & Marty Jannetty vs. Ted Oates & The Grapplers

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# INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**  
(1) WWF World champion
- 2—**LEX LUGER**  
(3) WCW World champion
- 3—**CURT HENNIG**  
(4) WWF I-C champion

- 4—**STEVE AUSTIN**  
(-) WCW TV champion
- 5—**BARRY WINDHAM**  
(-) No. 2 contender: WCW title
- 6—**JERRY LAWLER**  
(7) No. 1 contender: USWA title
- 7—**RON SIMMONS**  
(-) No. 3 contender: WCW title

- 8—**TOM PRICHARD**  
(14) USWA Texas champion
- 9—**STING**  
(5) No. 4 contender: WCW title
- 10—**BRET HART**  
(11) No. 1 contender: I-C title
- 11—**NIKITA KOLOFF**  
(6) No. 1 contender: U.S. title

- 12—**TONY ATLAS**  
(13) ICW champion
- 13—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
(9) No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 14—**THE PATRIOT**  
(-) Global TV champion
- 15—**STEVE WILLIAMS**  
(12) UWF TV champion

## WCW

- 1—**LEX LUGER**  
(2) 268, Chicago, IL
- 2—**STEVE AUSTIN**  
(6) 241, Dallas, TX
- 3—**BARRY WINDHAM**  
(7) 263, Sweetwater, TX

- 4—**RON SIMMONS**  
(11) 260, Perry, GA
- 5—**STING**  
(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 6—**NIKITA KOLOFF**  
(5) 275, Lithuania
- 7—**TOM ZENK**  
(14) 237, Minneapolis, MN

- 8—**DIAMOND STUDD**  
(8) 290, Tampa, FL
- 9—**JOHNNY B. BADD**  
(-) 259, Macon, GA
- 10—**YELLOW DOG**  
(-) 226, parts unknown
- 11—**ROBERT GIBSON**  
(-) 225, Pensacola, FL

- 12—**BOBBY EATON**  
(4) 233, Huntsville, AL
- 13—**P.N. NEWS**  
(10) 402, Detroit, MI
- 14—**DUSTIN RHODES**  
(9) 254, Austin, TX
- 15—**EL GIGANTE**  
(12) 435, Argentina

## WWF

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**  
(1) 302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**CURT HENNIG**  
(2) 235, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
(3) 310, Parris Island, SC

- 4—**BRET HART**  
(6) 235, Calgary, Alberta
- 5—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
(4) 280, Queens, NY
- 6—**THE UNDERTAKER**  
(5) 320, Dallas, TX
- 7—**THE WARLORD**  
(10) 360, Chicago, IL

- 8—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
(-) 280, Glens Falls, NY
- 9—**JIM NEIDHART**  
(-) 275, Los Angeles, CA
- 10—**THE MOUNTIE**  
(7) 232, Montreal, Quebec
- 11—**IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**  
(12) 245, Syracuse, NY

- 12—**DAVEY BOY SMITH**  
(8) 245, Leeds, England
- 13—**DINO BRAVO**  
(-) 256, Montreal, Quebec
- 14—**BERZERKER**  
(11) 316, Bozeman, MT
- 15—**RICK STEAMBOAT**  
(-) 238, Honolulu, HI

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**  
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2—**STING**  
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 3—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular

- 4—**RON SIMMONS**  
Last month: No. 13 Most Popular
- 5—**JERRY LAWLER**  
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 6—**EL GIGANTE**  
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
- 7—**BRET HART**  
Last month: unrated

- 8—**SID JUSTICE**  
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
- 9—**BOBBY EATON**  
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- 10—**ROBERT FULLER**  
Last month: unrated
- 11—**P.N. NEWS**  
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular

- 12—**STEVE DOLL**  
Last month: No. 15 Most Popular
- 13—**JEFF JARRETT**  
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular
- 14—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
Last month: unrated
- 15—**THE PATRIOT**  
Last month: unrated

## MOST HATED

- 1—**LEX LUGER**  
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 2—**THE UNDERTAKER**  
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**  
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated

- 4—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- 5—**CURT HENNIG**  
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 6—**RICK MORTON**  
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
- 7—**STEVE AUSTIN**  
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated

- 8—**LEATHERFACE**  
Last month: unrated
- 9—**THE MOUNTIE**  
Last month: unrated
- 10—**DIAMOND STUDD**  
Last month: unrated
- 11—**TYPHOON**  
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated

- 12—**ONE MAN GANG**  
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated
- 13—**ERIC EMBRY**  
Last month: unrated
- 14—**IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**  
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated
- 15—**MAKHAN SINGH**  
Last month: unrated

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE NASTY BOYS**  
(1) WWF World tag team champions
- 2—**THE FREEBIRDS**  
(2) WCW U.S. tag team champions
- 3—**ROBERT FULLER & JEFF JARRETT**  
(3) USWA tag team champions
- 4—**THE LEGION OF DOOM**  
(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title
- 5—**THE ROCKERS**  
(12) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title

- 6—**DICK MURDOCH & DICK SLATER**  
(8) No. 1 contenders: WCW tag title
- 7—**ARN ANDERSON & LARRY ZBYSKO**  
(-) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title
- 8—**THE BARROOM BRAWLERS**  
(-) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title
- 9—**THE YOUNG PISTOLS**  
(7) No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag title
- 10—**STEVE DOLL & CRUSH**  
(-) Pacific Northwest tag team champions

- 11—**THE ORIENT EXPRESS**  
(5) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title
- 12—**THE BILLION-DOLLAR BABIES**  
(11) IWCCW tag team champions
- 13—**LARRY WINTERS & JOHNNY HOT BODY**  
(15) Tri-State tag team champions
- 14—**THE ROYAL FAMILY**  
(-) No. 1 contenders: Global tag title
- 15—**BRUTE FORCE**  
(13) Georgia All-Star tag team champions

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended July 30, 1991

# ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

## ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS

(July 26, 1991; from Billy Black & Joel Deaton; Chiba, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUWARA MISAWA & TOSHIKI KAWADA

(July 24, 1991; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Kanazawa, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: TAKAKO INOUE

(April 29, 1991; from Kyoko Inoue; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO

(April 1, 1990; from Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: AKIRA HOKUTO

(April 29, 1991; from Suzuka Minami; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: AJA KONG & BISON KIMURA

(April 4, 1991; over Yumiko Hotta & Akira Hokuto for vacant title; Sendai, Japan)

## \* CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: RAMBO

(July 6, 1991; from Big Van Vader; Graz, Austria)

## GEORGIA ALL-STAR CHAMPION: JOEL DEATON

(April 21, 1991; from Steve Lawler; Canton, GA)

## \* GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

### THE LIGHTNING KID

(July 13, 1991; tournament final over Jerry Lynn; Dallas, TX)

## \* GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

### STEVE SIMPSON & CHRIS WALKER

(July 27, 1991; tournament final over Scotty the Body & Rip Rogers; Dallas, TX)

## \* GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TV CHAMPION: THE PATRIOT

(June 29, 1991; tournament final over Buddy Landell; Dallas, TX)

## ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(April 19, 1991; from Vic Steamboat; S. China, ME)

## IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ

(December 5, 1990; tournament final over Cousin Luke; Washington Township, NJ)

## IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SONNY BEACH & THE TERMINATOR

(August 27, 1990; from The Motor City Madmen; Atlantic City, NJ)

## \* IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE

(July 14, 1991; from Jules Strongbow; Sydney, Australia)

## IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI

(March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)

## IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE TASMANIAN

(June 5, 1991; from Ray Odyssey; Brooklyn, NY)

## IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BILLION-DOLLAR BABIES

(June 1, 1991; from The Madison Brothers; Wolfeboro, NH)

## IWCCW WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH

(by official's decision)

## IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI

(March 4, 1991; from Big Van Vader; Hiroshima, Japan)

## IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER

(March 21, 1991; from Hiroshi Hase & Kensuke Sasaki; Tokyo, Japan)

## IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN LIGER

(June 12, 1991; from Norio Honaga; Tokyo, Japan)

## LPWA CHAMPION: LADY X

(January 31, 1991; from Susan Sexton; Laughlin, NV)

## LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUDY MARTIN & LELANI KAI

(February 28, 1991; from Misty Blue Simmes & Heidi Lee Morgan; Laughlin, NV)

## MOTOR CITY HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MAN MT. LANCASTER

(August 31, 1985; from Al Snow; Lakeview, OH)

## MOTOR CITY MIDWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MIKE & MAX ANTHONY

(July 21, 1990; tournament final over The Nightmares; New Baltimore, MI)

## MOTOR CITY NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: MICKEY DOYLE

(August 7, 1990; from Bobo Brazil; Belleville, MI)

## MOTOR CITY U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: AL SNOW & MACHINE GUN KELLY

(May 10, 1991; from The Nightmares; Lima, OH)

## NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION: BRUNO BEKKAR

(December 12, 1987; from Johnny Garcia; Auckland, New Zealand)

## NEW ZEALAND JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOHNNY GARCIA

(May 13, 1991; from War Head Wenham; Auckland, New Zealand)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: STEVE DOLL

(November 10, 1990; from The Grappler; Portland, OR)

## \* PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE DOLL & CRUSH

(July 27, 1991; from Ron & Don Harris; Portland, OR)

## PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

## \* PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

### MITSUWARA MISAWA & TASHI KAWADA

(July 24, 1991; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Kanazawa, Japan)

## \* PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION (FLORIDA) CHAMPION: TYREE PRIDE

(June 29, 1991; from Steve Keirn; Nassau, Bahamas)

## PRO WRESTLING AMERICA CHAMPION: CHARLIE NORRIS

(May 11, 1991; from The Golden Idol (substituting for Terminator Riggs; Shakopee, MN)

## \* SOUTH ATLANTIC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS CHAVIS

(July 6, 1991; from Vince Torelli; Penbrooke, NC)

## SOUTH ATLANTIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BOBBY & JACKIE FULTON

(December 29, 1990; from The Pit Bulldogs; Greenville, SC)

## TEXAS ALL-PRO HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TUGBOAT TAYLOR

(January 18, 1991; from Tiger Conway Jr.; Conroe, TX)

## TRI-STATE WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: D.C. DRAKE

(September 15, 1990; tournament final over Rockin' Rebel; Philadelphia, PA)

## \* USWA CHAMPION: AWESOME KONG

(July 29, 1991; from Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN)

## USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY

(May 20, 1991; over Bill Dundee for held-up title; Memphis, TN)

## \* USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JEFF JARRETT & ROBERT FULLER

(July 15, 1991; from The Barroom Brawlers; Memphis, TN)

## USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: TOM PRICHARD

(June 7, 1991; from Bill Dundee; Dallas, TX)

## UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EL CANEK

(December 9, 1990; from Big Van Vader; Mexico City, Mexico)

## UWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PERRO AGUAYO & EL GRAN HAMADA

(June 13, 1991; from Brazo De Oro & Brazo De Plata; Tokyo, Japan)

## UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TV CHAMPION: STEVE WILLIAMS

(June 9, 1991; tournament final over Bam Bam Bigelow; Palmetto, FL)

## UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

(June 9, 1991; over Candi Devine to determine first champion; Palmetto, FL)

## WCW U.S. CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Lex Luger)

## WCW U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE FREEBIRDS

(May 19, 1991; tournament final over The Young Pistols; St. Petersburg, FL)

## \* WCW WORLD CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(July 14, 1991; over Barry Windham to fill title vacancy; Baltimore, MD)

## WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Rick & Scott Steiner)

## WWA WORLD MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: TATSUSHI ONIDA

(May 29, 1991; from Gregory Berichuv; Tokyo, Japan)

## \* WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: SUPER MEDIC III

(July 13, 1991; from Rod Price; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

## WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Hurricane Castillo Jr. & Miguel Perez Jr.)

## WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RICKY SANTANA

(May 25, 1991; from Brad Anderson; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

## WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Manny Fernandez)

## WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Hurricane Castillo Jr. & Miguel Perez Jr.)

## WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(February 2, 1991; for held-up title over Greg Valentine; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

## WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE

(May 11, 1991; from Monster Ripper; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

## WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CURT HENNING

(November 19, 1990; from Kerry Von Erich; Rochester, NY)

## WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(March 24, 1991; from Sgt. Slaughter; Los Angeles, CA)

## WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NASTY BOYS

(March 24, 1991; from Bret Hart & Jim Neidhart; Los Angeles, CA)



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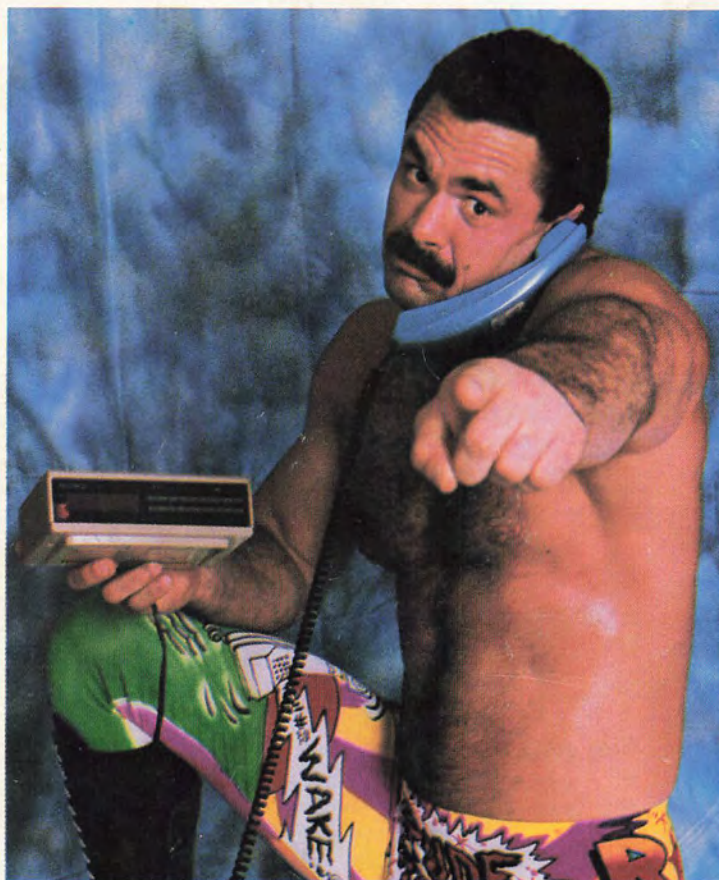
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